

SAFETY TALK



WORKING SAFELY NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Working with or near power lines can expose workers to electrical hazards, but these dangers can be avoided through safe work practices. These practical steps can prevent injuries from contact with power lines.

- Conduct a hazard assessment to identify and address potential safety hazards before work begins.
- Check with our supervisor to make sure the power company has shut off the energy to the power lines before using equipment nearby.
- Educate workers on safety procedures and requirements.
- **Never** store materials and equipment under or near overhead power lines.
- Keep machinery, equipment, and loads 20 feet (or more) from power lines.
- Operate machines at a slower-than-normal rate when close to power lines.
- Be careful to maintain distance from overhead powerlines, since wind can cause the lines to sway and reduce the clearance between them and machinery or equipment.
- Follow routes marked as safe and color coding when machines must travel beneath power lines.
- Use caution when traveling over uneven ground. This could cause the machine to weave or bob into power lines.
- Stay 20 feet (or more) from machines that are close to power lines.
- Use non-conductive wood or fiberglass ladders.
- Wear personal protective equipment, such as rubber insulating gloves and insulating sleeve, and industrial protect helmets.

Resources:

For more information on recognizing hazards from energized power lines, visit OSHA's [Electrical Safety and Health Topics](#) page. OSHA videos on electrocutions in construction show how to work safely with [cranes](#) and [ladders](#) near power lines.



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Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic WORKING SAFELY NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Agency: _____

Crew: _____

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _____

Date: _____

Print Name

Signature

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