



## TOOLBOX TALK: OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY

### Proper Safety Practices

When it comes to electrical safety, there is no room for carelessness or complacency. Nearly every work site has power lines to be aware of and equipment that could make contact with them. That's why it's vital to your safety to know proper power line safety practices.

#### OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY BASICS:

- Never get closer than 10 feet to a power line. If the power line is more powerful, add an additional 10 feet. Warn others if the minimum distance is not maintained.
  - Conduct daily surveys of the work site, implementing control measures and training to address hazards.
  - Only operate equipment around overhead power lines if you are authorized and trained to do so.
  - If tall equipment, such as excavators, boom trucks, cranes, and similar equipment, must be moved in the area of overhead power lines, ask another worker to watch and verify clearance between the equipment and the power lines.
  - When equipment is being operated near overhead power lines, employees standing on the ground should not come in contact with the equipment unless the equipment is shorter than the height of the power lines.
  - Never touch an overhead line if it has fallen or been knocked down.
  - Never assume power lines are not active.
  - When a machine is in contact with an overhead line, stay away and do not allow anyone to touch or come near the machine. Summon outside assistance.
  - Never touch a person who is in contact with a live power line.
  - Use non-conductive wooden or fiberglass ladders.
  - Avoid storing materials underneath or near overhead power lines.
  - Call the utility company to have power lines insulated if you are going to be working within 20 feet. Safety departments can also assist with this.
- #### IF YOUR VEHICLE COMES IN CONTACT WITH A DOWNED POWER LINE:
- Stay in the vehicle and avoid touching metal.
  - If you have to get out of the vehicle to summon help or because of fire, keep your feet together and jump out without touching any wires or the vehicle.

