

Maintain Proper Clearance—It's The Law!

Approaching power lines is not only deadly, it's against the law. According to Title 29, Part 1910.180 and Part 1926.550(a) of the Code of Federal Regulations, you must have a minimum clearance of 10 feet when working near power lines 50kv or less.

Basic Safety Guidelines

Always use extreme caution when working around electrical power lines. Electricity flows through metal, wood and many other conducting materials, including human beings. Touching a power line (or an object in contact with one) can result in serious injury—even death.

When machinery or other equipment comes in contact with power lines, their metal parts become energized and dangerous.

If power lines that have snapped or burned fall onto communication wires, fences or other objects, these objects may also become energized and deadly.

If a piece of equipment contacts a power line and becomes energized, follow these procedures to ensure your safety and the safety of others:

- Do not leave the equipment until, if possible, the contact between the equipment and electric wires is broken.
- If it becomes necessary to leave the equipment, jump entirely free so that no parts of the body are in contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop away keeping both feet together.
- Never touch the ground and the energized equipment at the same time because electric current will flow through the body to the ground.
- Never touch anyone in contact with overhead lines or energized equipment.
- Follow First Aid/CPR procedures as needed once the scene becomes safe.

Overhead Power Line Safety Coordination Committee

The committee is comprised of safety professionals throughout the State of South Carolina who have a sincere concern for the prevention of overhead power line contact accidents.

The committee includes representatives from electric utilities, state agencies, contractor associations, private construction companies, engineering firms and state safety organizations.

The overhead power line safety initiative began in July 2004.

Committee Members

Randy French, South Carolina Electric & Gas —
Chair

South Carolina Department of Transportation

C.R. Jackson, Inc. / N.W. White & Company

Carolinas Association of General Contractors

Wilbur Smith Associates

South Carolina Chapter of The American Society
of Safety Engineers

South Carolina Occupational Safety Council

Santee Cooper

Sloan Construction Company

Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina

SET Solutions, LLC

Broad River Electric Cooperative

South Carolina Department of Labor,
Licensing and Regulation

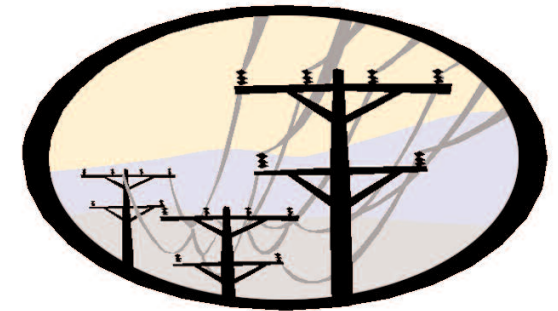
South Carolina Association of Municipal
Power Systems

Web sites

www.llr.state.sc.us

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“Look Up & Live” Overhead Power Line Safety Initiative



Pre-Construction Site Assessment and What To Know Before You Call the Utility Checklist

Developed by the
Overhead Power Line Safety
Coordination Committee
in Coordination with
South Carolina Department of
Labor, Licensing & Regulation

“Look Up & Live”

Accidents involving overhead power lines occur needlessly every year. These accidents can damage equipment and, more importantly, cause serious injury or death.

Overhead high voltage conductors or “lines” are usually bare wires supported by poles or structures. A danger exists for personnel when mobile equipment, such as dump trucks, drill rigs, cranes, ladders, scaffolds, etc., contact these lines.

Approaching power lines is not only deadly, it's against the law. According to OSHA regulations, you must have a minimum clear distance of at least 10 feet when working near power lines 50kV or less, and more for higher voltages.

Unintentional contact with overhead power lines resulted in the following:

BASED ON SC ACCIDENT STATISTICS (SCDLLR)

- 19 serious accidents from July 1999 through September 2005.
- 16 fatalities from July 1999 through September 2005.

BASED ON NATIONAL STATISTICS (NSC-2004)

- 309 fatalities occurred from 1999 to 2001. These statistics only represent facts that have been reported to these agencies; the actual number of fatalities and suffering are far greater.

These accidents can be eliminated with improved supervisor and worker safety training regarding the dangers of overhead power lines and proper notification and coordination of work activities with all parties involved.

Pre-Construction Site Assessment

Persons responsible for work near overhead power lines should perform a pre-construction site assessment to identify equipment to be used and/or work procedures to be performed near overhead power lines. The assessment should include the following:

Are there overhead power lines on the job site? yes no

If overhead lines are on the job site, will mobile equipment including dump trucks be located on the job site? yes no

Will work be performed within 50 feet of the overhead power lines? yes no

Is equipment located on the job site that may reach overhead power lines? yes no

Have you identified the electric utility owning the overhead power lines? yes no

Has the electric utility been notified prior to performing work? yes no

Are workers trained to recognize hazards associated with overhead power lines and have they been instructed on how to avoid the hazards? yes no

Are there electrical safety regulations that cover the work to be performed? yes no

Do all supervisors know the clearance and other requirements? yes no

ASSESSMENT PERFORMED

BY: _____

DATE & TIME _____

Utility Notification

After completion of a pre-site assessment and a determination has been made that overhead power lines could reasonably be in the work area, the person responsible for the work should notify the appropriate utility **72 hours** prior to the scheduled commencement of the work. **Notification should include the following:**

Location of the overhead power lines

Name and contact information of company performing work

Type of work to be performed

Schedule and duration of work activity

Type of equipment on the job site

Number of employees on the job site _____

Methods to prevent contact with overhead power lines

Electric Utility Name _____

Utility Telephone Number _____

Utility Contact _____

Pole Number _____

ASSESSMENT PERFORMED

BY: _____

DATE & TIME _____