



Working Near Energized Power Lines:

The best way to avoid someone getting electrocuted from a power line is to not go near them whatsoever. However, depending on the task and job site, that may not always be possible. When you are working on a job site and not able to completely stay clear of power lines, here are some safety precautions that should be taken.

1. Inspect the Site

When you arrive at a job site, you should always thoroughly inspect all the areas of it and locate where the hazards are. That way, when briefing your crews on the job that is to be done, all employees know what the risks are and what to be careful of.

2. Educate All Employees

All employees should have proper training and education on this topic to ensure the safety of every employee. There are many times that the person doing the task is not the one injured, but the one standing close by.

3. Post Signage

Even though employees have been briefed about the risks and where they are located on the worksite. There should be proper signs put up in the area that is at risk to make sure everyone remembers and doesn't accidentally come in contact with power lines.

4. Keep A Safe Distance

If the power lines that you are working near are not able to be de-energized, then a safe distance should always be kept between the lines and the worker. Depending on the voltage that is being put off from the power line will determine exactly how far away you need to be from it.

OSHA's recommended clearance distances of power lines are as follows:

- Voltage up to 50 should have a minimum clearance of 10 feet
- Voltage over 50 to 200 should have a minimum clearance of 15 feet
- Voltage over 200 to 350 should have a minimum clearance of 20 feet
- Voltage over 350 to 500 should have a minimum clearance of 25 feet
- Voltage over 500 to 750 should have a minimum clearance of 35 feet
- Voltage over 750 to 1,000 should have a minimum clearance of 45 feet



5. Have a Spotter

In many situations on a construction site, it is safest when you have a spotter with you, near power lines are no exception to that. Someone to help communicate and make sure there are not any barriers to hearing what is being discussed.

For example, one of the many reasons that there should always be a spotter is in the instance of a hazardous situation occurring. If you are unable to exit your equipment due to a risk of electrocution, the spotter can contact the person in charge to help execute the situation. 911 should always be contacted when there is a situation involving a power line.