

POWER LINE SAFETY

POWER LINES, WHETHER OVERHEAD OR UNDERGROUND, ARE DESIGNED TO BE SAFE. BUT ELECTRICITY CAN STILL BE DANGEROUS, SO IT IS VITAL TO LEARN TO BE SAFE AROUND POWER LINES.

- THE THREE KEYS OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY
- MAINTAIN YOUR SAFE DISTANCE WHEN WORKING NEAR POWER LINES
- WHAT IS A SAFE DISTANCE FROM POWER LINES?
- WORKSAFEBC'S GENERAL LIMITS OF APPROACH



BC Forest Safety

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POWER LINE SAFETY



THE THREE KEYS TO POWER LINE SAFETY

- 1) LOOK UP AND DOWN:** Plan your work so you can avoid contact with power lines. Make sure you look for power lines overhead and underground.
- 2) STAY BACK:** If you are working around power lines, keep a safe distance from the lines. You should be at least ten metres (33 feet) away from the lines and your equipment should be at least six metres (20 feet) away. Use a spotter to make sure you are maintaining this minimum safe distance.
- 3) CALL FOR HELP:** If you come across a fallen power line, an exposed underground power line, or any object meeting a power line, stay back ten metres (33 feet) and call 911. If your equipment contacts a line, stay calm and stay still until help arrives.

MAINTAIN YOUR SAFE DISTANCE WHEN WORKING NEAR POWER LINES.

For work near exposed electrical equipment or conductors, WorkSafeBC Regulation specifies the safe limits of approach that must be maintained by any worker, work, tool, machine, equipment, or material. That includes equipment like ladders, power tools, scaffolding, cranes, and machinery.

WHAT IS A SAFE DISTANCE FROM POWER LINES?

Electricity can flow through objects that are touching power lines and can move across a gap from a line to an object that is close by. The minimum safe distance to prevent this from happening is called a "limit of approach" and it is determined by:

- The voltage of the line.
- The proximity of the worker and equipment.

These distances apply to workers, tools, machines, and equipment. If you will be working near sources of high-voltage electricity, you must follow the *limits of approach* to stay safe and maintain your compliance with WorkSafeBC Regulation.

WORKSAFEBC'S GENERAL LIMITS OF APPROACH

VOLTAGE PHASE TO PHASE	MINIMUM DISTANCE	
	METRES	FEET
OVER 750 TO 75 kV	3	10
OVER 75 kV TO 250 kV	4.5	15
OVER 250 kV TO 550 kV	6	20

If you do not know the voltage of a power line, stay back at least ten metres (33 feet) and wait for a BC Hydro representative to arrive and verify your limit of approach.

Call BC Hydro's Electric Service Coordination Centre at 1-877-520-1355 for help.



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