

## **OVERHEAD POWER LINE TIPS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

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### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN CONSTRUCTION WORK**

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- Survey the site for overhead power lines. **LOOK UP!**
  - **BEST SAFETY PRACTICE: NEVER GET CLOSER THAN 10 FEET TO AN OVERHEAD POWER LINE!**
  - Consider all overhead lines as energized until the electric utility indicates otherwise, or an electrician verifies that the line is not energized and has been grounded.
  - In construction work, an overhead power line safety component should be part of your employer's overall safety and health program and safety training.
  - If overhead lines are present, call the utility company and find out what voltage is on the lines. Ask if the utility company can shut off the lines while you are working near them.
  - If overhead lines cannot be shut down, ask the utility company if they can install insulation over the lines during the time you will be working near them.
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### **WORKING WITH TOOLS & EQUIPMENT**

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- If the lines cannot be shut down and/or insulation applied, a minimum safe distance of 10 feet must be established. Have a brief job site meeting to discuss the planned work as it relates to the power lines. Discuss topics such as the use of long-handled tools, and equipment (raised dump trucks, back hoes, etc.) that could come in contact with the lines. Consider the need for a designated person to monitor activities around the lines.
  - Only use nonconductive ladders when working on or near overhead power lines.
  - Employees shall not be permitted to approach or carry any conductive object closer than 10 feet to an energized line. The only exception is for trained and qualified employees using insulated tools designed for high voltage lines.
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Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Region VII  
(5/99)

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**CRANES/EQUIPMENT**

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- If using a crane/equipment near lines rated at 50,000 volts (50 kv) or less, minimum distance between the energized lines and any part of the crane (boom, load line, etc.) shall be at least 10 feet.
  - If using a crane/equipment near energized lines rated at 50,000 volts (50 kv) or more, minimum distance between the energized lines and any part of the crane shall be at least 10 feet plus 0.4 inch for each 1,000 volts over 50,000 volts.
  - Where it is difficult for the operator to maintain the desired clearance by visible means, an employee shall be designated to observe the distance between the crane/equipment and the line so as to give timely warning to the operator. This should be the **ONLY** job the monitor is performing when this hazardous condition is present.
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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- The safety tips on this card are not intended to be all-inclusive; they are simply a starting point to help prevent electrocutions from overhead power lines.
  - For further information, please refer to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1926. You may also contact your local OSHA Area Office at:
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**Kansas Toll-Free**  
1-800-362-2896 (KS only)

**Nebraska Toll-Free**  
1-800-642-8963 (NE only)

**Western Missouri Toll-Free**  
1-800-892-2674 (MO only)

**Eastern Missouri Toll-Free**  
1-800-392-7743 (MO only)

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