



# SAFETY BRIEF

## WORKING NEAR POWER LINES

Power line workers are in the high-risk occupation group for work-related deaths, but anyone near a power line is in danger of a nonfatal or fatal electrical shock. Follow these tips to stay safe around power lines:

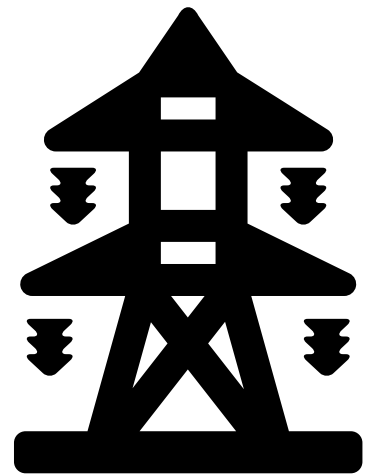
1. Always look up and around your work area, surveying where the power lines run and what towers they connect to.
2. When using tools and equipment around power lines, make sure you avoid any contact between your equipment and a line.
3. Maintain at least 10 feet of clearance between equipment or tools and overhead power lines up to 50 kilovolts. Increase this distance for higher voltage lines.
4. Always assume power lines are energized unless given explicit confirmation from a utility operator that they are not.

### DOWNED POWER LINES

1. Treat downed lines as if they are energized.
2. Stay a minimum of 35 feet away as the line may have energized the surrounding ground.
3. Do not touch or move the line, and do not try to disentangle equipment that is caught in the line.
4. Alert emergency personnel and the utility company of the downed line.

### PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

1. Designate a trained safety supervisor to coordinate any work near power lines.
2. If possible, de-energize the lines by working with the utility operator or owner. Place barriers or warning signs around the area.
3. Ground vehicles and other equipment.
4. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment when working around the lines, such as nonconductive headgear, rubber boots and gloves.



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