

SAFETY MATTERS CONSTRUCTION SERIES



ELECTRICAL INCIDENTS

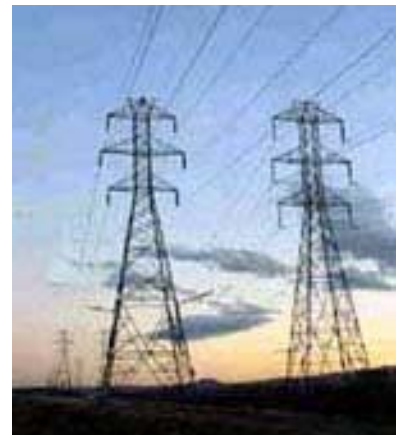
Contact with Power Lines

Understanding the Danger

Overhead and buried power lines at your work site are especially hazardous because they carry extremely high voltage. Fatal electrocution is the main risk, but burns and falls from elevations are also hazards. Using tools and equipment that may contact power lines increases this risk.

Examples of Equipment That May Contact Power Lines

- Aluminum paint rollers
- Backhoes
- Concrete pumps
- Cranes
- Long-handled cement finishing floats
- Metal building materials
- Metal ladders
- Raised dump truck beds
- Scaffolds



Avoiding the Hazards

- Look for overhead power lines and buried power line indicators.
- Post warning signs.
- Contact utilities for buried power line locations.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Unless you know otherwise, assume that overhead lines are energized.
- De-energize and ground lines when working near them. Other protective measures include guarding or insulating the lines.
- Use non-conductive wood or fiberglass ladders when working near power lines.

Safety Matters Construction Series information is extracted directly from OSHA safety materials. For additional information consult www.OSHA.gov