

Working Near Overhead Power Lines

Introduction

Plan work before moving ladders, lifts, cranes, long materials, or vehicles near overhead lines. Treat lines as energized unless the utility or responsible authority has established otherwise.

Hazards & Controls

Have the employer determine the applicable clearance and controls for the equipment, task, and voltage. A universal 10-foot rule is insufficient: cranes have specific planning, clearance, and encroachment-prevention requirements. Arrange utility coordination and required deenergizing or protective measures.

Establish exclusion areas and trained spotters where required; a spotter or fiberglass ladder does not authorize entry into a danger zone. If contact occurs, keep others away, call emergency services and the utility, and follow the equipment-specific emergency plan. Avoid creating a path to ground.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

What clearance and emergency procedure apply to this equipment and these lines?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Crane Power Line Safety (up to 350 kV) (1926.1408)

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Meeting Record & Sign-In

Working Near Overhead Power Lines

Company: _____ Date: _____

Jobsite: _____ Presenter: _____

Time / duration: _____ Crew / shift: _____

Site-specific hazards and controls discussed

	Printed name	Signature
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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date