

TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO AVOID CONTACT WITH ALL POWER LINES — ABOVE OR BELOW GROUND. BUT ...

IF A CONTACT WITH POWER LINES IS MADE ...

- Have the operator stay in the equipment. If possible, the operator should move the equipment out of contact.
- NEVER touch the ground and the equipment contacting the wire at the same time.
- NEVER touch any person, equipment, load or other item that is still in contact with electric lines.
- Keep everyone clear of the equipment, its load, and any power lines that may have been contacted. Treat all wires as energized and dangerous.
- Call Wisconsin Public Service immediately at **800-450-7240**. This number is available 24 hours a day.

IN CASE OF ELECTRIC SHOCK ... SECONDS COUNT!

- Call for emergency medical help immediately. As soon as the victim is free from contact with the electric wire, administer first aid. You should always have people on the job who are trained in first aid and CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation).
- If the victim's heart has stopped, give CPR. To be effective, CPR must begin as soon as safely possible.
- If the victim has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration.
- Have someone standing by who can quickly direct first responders to the victim.

CALLING INSTRUCTIONS

- Call Before You Dig: **811**
- Underground electrical and gas facilities will be marked within three working days.
- In the event of an emergency, call WPS immediately at **800-450-7240**.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR CONTRACTORS

Safety at your service



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STEER CLEAR OF POWER LINES. ABOVE GROUND AND BELOW ...

NEVER TAKE CHANCES! IF YOU'RE UNSURE OF POWER LINES, THEIR LOCATIONS, SAFE CLEARANCE DISTANCES OR PROPER SAFETY PROCEDURES, CALL WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE. ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST.

Above ground hazards

Overhead power lines are not insulated. Whenever a piece of equipment — or the load it is carrying — makes contact with an overhead line, it's a dangerous, potentially life-threatening situation.

• **Dump trucks and digging equipment**

Operators must always do a "Circle-of-Safety" check — park the vehicle and walk completely around it. Make sure there are no hazards overhead before raising the dump truck body or using the digger.

• **Cranes, booms, buckets and telescopes**

Overhead electrical lines are a double hazard. First, booms can contact power lines. Second, loads or load lines can swing into contact as well. Either situation is very dangerous, even with an insulated boom or load links. Always keep safe working

distances. Also consider the possibility of equipment malfunction — you don't want to be within swinging reach of an energized line.

Take extra caution when power lines run near or through a tree. There is always a risk that tree trimmers or their equipment will contact wires. A tree itself can become a dangerous electrical conductor under certain conditions.

• **Ladders and scaffolding**

Keep ladders and scaffolds away from power lines. Antenna installers need to be extra careful to avoid power line contact if the antenna should fall during erection. Workers should stay as far away as possible from a building's electrical service entrance. Before working near a service entrance, call WPS. We will check the wires for proper insulation. If needed, we can move or de-energize the lines.

• **Important OSHA regulations**

Occupational Safety and Health Act regulations specify safe operating distances from electric lines on the basis of voltage. These apply to all workers and types of construction, earthmoving and material-handling equipment.

Volts	Working clearances*
Up to 50,000	10 ft.
69,000	11 ft.
115,000	12 ft. 2 in.
138,000	13 ft.
345,000	20 ft.

* These clearances must be maintained unless the line has been de-energized by WPS (or the line's owner or operator).

Below ground hazards

Buried utilities are a serious hazard that can have life-threatening consequences. Keep your distance from underground utility lines. Get the facts before you dig. It's not just good sense ... it's the law.

• **The danger underground**

Buried utilities include electrical power, natural gas, water and telephone. A breakage can disrupt vital services. More important, contact with electrical and natural gas transmission lines can result in electrocution, fire and explosion.

• **Special care required**

Buried electric lines, also called transmission facilities, are usually not marked on the surface. Contractors are responsible for identifying buried lines and maintaining safe clearances during excavations.

• **If you dig, think safety first**

Even momentary contact with electrical power lines — insulated or uninsulated — can cause serious injury or death.

• **Always call before you dig**

811 links you with resources that can precisely locate underground transmission facilities. Technicians will locate and mark transmission lines at your excavation site for free. If in doubt, ask before you act.

• **Your legal responsibilities**

Section 182.0175 of the Wisconsin Statutes specifies precautions required of contractors and excavators regarding transmission facilities. Here are some of the law's key points. Refer to the complete text of the law for the full requirements. (Michigan has similar requirements.)

• Locate all facilities in the digging area by notifying the One-Call System at least three days before starting to excavate. Provide a repeat notice if any previous location marks are destroyed or covered, if the excavation does not begin within ten days of the scheduled start date, or if the excavation is interrupted for ten days or more.

• Maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches between any marked unexposed underground facility and the cutting edge of any power-operated equipment. If the facility is exposed, the clearance may be reduced to two times the known control limit of the equipment's cutting edge or 12 inches, whichever is greater.

• Protect all transmission facilities in the excavation area. Take all reasonable precautions to avoid interfering with existing facilities at all times.

• As promptly as possible in an emergency, notify the owners of facilities that may have been affected by the emergency excavation.

• Immediately notify the facility owner if you accidentally damage or disrupt exposed facilities.

• When backfilling, follow procedures specified by the facility owner or in a manner that ensures its full and complete protection.

