

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 21 Vol. 21 Week of 5/22/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

POWERLINE SAFETY

There will be no warning, no sign, no horn. If you get too close, you just get zapped! Overhead powerlines are everywhere and they are dangerous! Almost any operation can become dangerous when you are working near powerlines. Be especially careful around backhoes, dump trucks, bucket trucks, cranes and aerial lifts. The danger isn't just from machinery — watch out for powerlines when carrying ladders, conduit, or lumber. Knowing the location and voltage of all overhead powerlines at the jobsite **before** operating or working near them will prevent accidents and injuries.

Powerline contact is the greatest risk found in crane operations. A single contact can result in multiple deaths and crippling injuries. Each year approximately 150 people are **killed** by powerline contact. Listen up! This message is not just for operators; about 80% of the victims were guiding the load at the time of contact! Keep in mind that no person should operate any piece of equipment so that any part of the equipment or the load is closer to a powerline than OSHA regulations permit. An exception is made when adequate insulating barriers have been erected, or the line has been de-energized. This usually requires special arrangements with the local utility company and/or the owner of the lines.

OSHA regulations specify minimum clearances from powerlines based on their voltages. Remember, this means that **no part** of the load, guide lines, rigging, boom, cables, or workers can be closer than the clearances — **ever!** OSHA specifies a 10 foot working clearance for all lines under 50 kilovolts (kV). For lines over 50 kV the working clearance will be 10 feet plus 0.4 inches for each kilovolt over 50 kV. The table to the right contains the clearances for several common transmission voltages.

Clearances for some common transmission voltages

Voltage (kV)	Clearance (ft-in)
under 50	10 - 0
66	10 - 6
115	12 - 2
138	12 - 11
230	16 - 0
345	19 - 10
500	25 - 0

Help in determining the voltage of powerlines is available by calling your local electric company. The key to avoiding powerline contact is pre-job safety planning. Planning is one of the greatest accident deterrents available in the workplace. A single individual should coordinate and have overall responsibility for all operations near powerlines.

SAFETY REMINDER

LOOK UP — BE CAREFUL!

Overhead powerlines cannot get out of the way!

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____