

KEYWORDS: ELECTRICAL; POWERLINE; DISTANCE**10-15 MINUTES**

Topic: Powerline Contact



IDEAS FOR YOUR TALK:

- People remember facts better when they're interactive and visual: u
- People remember stories better than raw facts: think of a personal story that you can share.
- YouTube is another good source of information and offers many safety videos and demonstrations. Select only videos that are high-quality.

EXPLAIN DANGERS:

- Powerline contact is a major cause of fatal accidents and critical injuries.
- These types of incidents usually involve heavy equipment such as backhoes, dump trucks, boom trucks, cranes, and excavators.
- Beware of contact when moving extension ladders, rolling scaffolds, long lengths of pipe, and siding. Also, beware of the powerline moving (i.e., blowing in the wind).

DEMONSTRATE:

Review the minimum permitted distances, which are listed below:

Power Line Voltages	OSHA Minimum Approach Distance
0 to 50kV	10 feet
Over 50kV to 200kV	15 feet
Over 200kV to 350kV	20 feet
Over 350kV to 500kV	25 feet
Over 500kV to 750kV	25 feet

1. SUGGESTED ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS:

- What is the main risk involved by Powerline contact ?
- Has anyone heard of an incident or accident involving Powerline?

2. TALKING POINTS:

FOLLOW THESE SAFE PRACTICES WHEN WORKING AROUND AROUND POWERLINES:

- Don't store material and equipment below overhead powerlines.
- Obey all warning devices or signs.
- Use a signaller to direct equipment operators and truck drivers The signaller must be in full view of the operator and have a clear view of the powerline.
- The signaller must warn drivers and operators when any part of their equipment or load approaches the minimum distances set by law.
- When erecting or moving a ladder or scaffold, don't let it lean or drift toward overhead powerlines. Always maintain minimum allowable clearances.
- To determine powerline voltage, check markings on the pole or call the utility.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL CONTACT WITH A POWERLINE, FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES:

- Never touch equipment and the ground at the same time.
- Get someone to call the local utility to shut off power.
- If possible, break contact by driving the equipment clear of the powerline. Otherwise do not leave the equipment until the utility shuts down the power or fire forces you to jump clear.
- Keep everyone away from any equipment in contact with a powerline.
- Beware of time relays. Even after breakers are tripped by line damage, relays may be triggered to restore power.

3. CLOSING QUESTIONS:

- Do you know of any powerline on this job site ?
- Do you have questions on this subject ?
- Are you aware of a risk on this jobsite that shouldn't be?



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