- If a machine's boom or bucket gets into the danger zone, or comes into contact with a power line, anyone touching the machine, or even standing nearby, is at risk.
- If there is any indication that the work will bring the equipment close to the minimum 10-foot danger zone, designate at least one employee to observe from a safe distance and ensure that the minimum danger zone clearance around power lines is maintained, especially when raising dump truck beds, booms and cranes. This should be the only job the observer performs at the time.
- Always have a safety meeting at the site before work begins each day. Be sure all sub-contractors on the job are aware of safety issues and adhere to applicable safety rules for the site.

Working Near Underground Electric or Gas Systems: First Call 811 Before You Dig

Below is a general overview of the responsibilities for excavating including digging, drilling, blasting, and demolition. Complete rules and procedures may be obtained from your state's One-Call Notification System.

One-call notification systems are used to alert member facility owners about work involving excavation or demolition. Excavators must call their local one-call notification system and provide the exact location of the work site and planned work date before excavating.

Call Dig Safe System®, Inc. at 811 at least three, but no more than ten working days before digging. You may access their resources at www.digsafe.com. Call 811 at least 72 hours before work begins (excludes weekends and holidays).

Excavators are responsible for knowing the meaning of all markings, including those related to size and depth, color coding, center line or offset staking or marking and all other acceptable methods used to indicate the locations of underground facilities.

After the physical locations of underground facilities have been located and marked, use these tips to help keep everyone involved safe and keep your job on schedule:

- Select appropriate equipment to maintain applicable clearance from underground facilities, including hand shoveling when required.
- Open cut or tunnel work must be braced, sheeted or shored to eliminate harm to personnel or damage to cables and pipes.
- Follow all federal (including OSHA), state and local laws, regulations and ordinances. Where similar, but different standards exist, follow the more stringent requirement.
- Access to manholes, handholes, valves, equipment boxes, vaults, etc. must be left open and usable.
- If you unexpectedly expose a cable or pipe, damage its protective covering, or see deterioration, call the facility owner and do not backfill. Don't try to make repairs yourself, leave it to the owner of the item.
- Place barricades around excavations that expose cables or pipes. Use danger signaling devices such as lights or flashers according to local codes.
- Earth shocks from pile driving can damage nearby buried utilities. For your protection, check your plans inadvance with Liberty Utilities.

The safety tips contained here are not intended to be all-inclusive; they are simply a starting point to help prevent electrocutions from overhead or underground power lines and prevent negative consequences from dig-ins to underground facilities.

Contact Information

If you are working within Liberty Utilities' service territory in California, call 1-800-782-2506.

Liberty Utilities®

1-800-782-2506
www.libertyutilities.com

Stay Clear and Stay Alive

Keep at least 10 feet away from power lines

This is an important notice. Please have it translated.

Este es un aviso importante. Por favor, tenga lo tradujo.

Liberty Utilities®

Working Near Overhead Power Lines

There is a minimum 10-foot danger zone around overhead power lines. Transmission lines more than 50,000 volts require an even greater distance.

Maintain Proper Clearance – It's The Law!

Approaching power lines is not only deadly, it's against the law. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet to be maintained when working near power lines 50,000 volts or less, and more for higher voltages.

Overhead power lines may be coated to protect them from the weather, but that coating will not protect you from electric shock. Assume all overhead power lines are energized. If you come in contact with an overhead power line with your body or indirectly through a ladder or tool, you may be seriously injured or even killed.

Before you begin a project or construction work, take a moment and look up. Survey the entire site—including your intended approach to and from the actual work site—for overhead power lines. If power lines are present, be sure to keep yourself, and any objects you are in contact with, at least 10 feet away from the line.

If you believe you will not be able to keep at least 10 feet away from the power lines during your work, call the local electric utility before starting your job.

Pre-Construction Site Assessment

Before working near overhead power lines, consider performing a pre-construction site assessment to identify equipment to be used and/or work procedures to be performed near overhead power lines. Conducting an assessment will help identify when to contact your local utility for assistance.

Some of the things to be considered in the assessment include the following:

- Are there overhead power lines on the job site?
- If overhead lines are on the job site, will mobile equipment, including dump trucks, be located on the job site?
- Will work be performed within 10 feet of the overhead power lines?
- Is the equipment located on the job site capable of reaching the overhead power lines?
- If yes, have you identified the electric utility owning the overhead power lines?
- If yes, has the electric utility been notified prior to performing work?
- Are workers trained to recognize hazards associated with overhead power lines and have been instructed on how to avoid the hazards?
- Are there electrical safety regulations that cover the work to be performed?
- Do all supervisors know the clearance and other requirements?

Utility Notification

After completion of the pre-site assessment and a determination has been made that overhead power lines could reasonably be in the work area, notify the appropriate utility at least two working days prior to the scheduled commencement of the work.

Notification should include the following information:

- Location of the overhead power lines
- Pole Number
- Name and contact information of company performing work
- Type of work to be performed
- Start date and duration of work
- Type of equipment on the job site
- Number of employees of the job site within overhead power lines

Working With Tools and Equipment

Always use extreme caution when working around electrical power lines. Below are some tips to help you avoid problems with common tools and equipment.

Ladders

- Before picking up a ladder, look up, survey the entire work area to identify overhead power lines, and make a plan to avoid them.
- When carrying a ladder to and from the work location, be sure to keep the ladder level so an elevated end does not come near power lines.
- Before erecting a ladder, always look up to be sure it will not contact—or even come within 10 feet of—power lines. Properly secure the ladder before use.
- Be especially careful when installing metal siding, gutters, antennas, etc. which can blow into a power line while being raised into place.

Scaffolds

Take the following protective actions if you are erecting, moving, or working from metal or conductive scaffolds near overhead power lines:

- Look up and be aware of any overhead power lines in your work area.
- Always maintain a minimum of 10 feet from the power line to any portion of the scaffold or worker.
- Conduct initial and daily surveys of the worksite and implement control measures and training to address the hazards at the site.
- When erecting or moving scaffolds in the area of overhead power lines, secure the sections, if necessary, to ensure they do not fall within the 10 feet danger zone or make contact with the lines.
- Also consider appointing a competent worker to observe the clearance distance and warn others if the 10 foot minimum distance is about to be breached. Make sure the competent person stands back far enough to be out of harms way if something goes wrong.
- Keep in mind that if part of the scaffolding gets close enough or contacts the power line, the entire structure can become energized, endangering anyone who is touching it or is close to it.
- If minimum clearance of 10-feet cannot be maintained, notify the utility company to work out a safe solution.

Mobile, Elevated Equipment

- Keep all vehicles and heavy machinery—cranes, bucket and dump trucks, backhoes, front-end loaders, and cement pumpers—out of the danger zone around power lines (a minimum of 10 feet). Transmission lines require an even greater distance.