

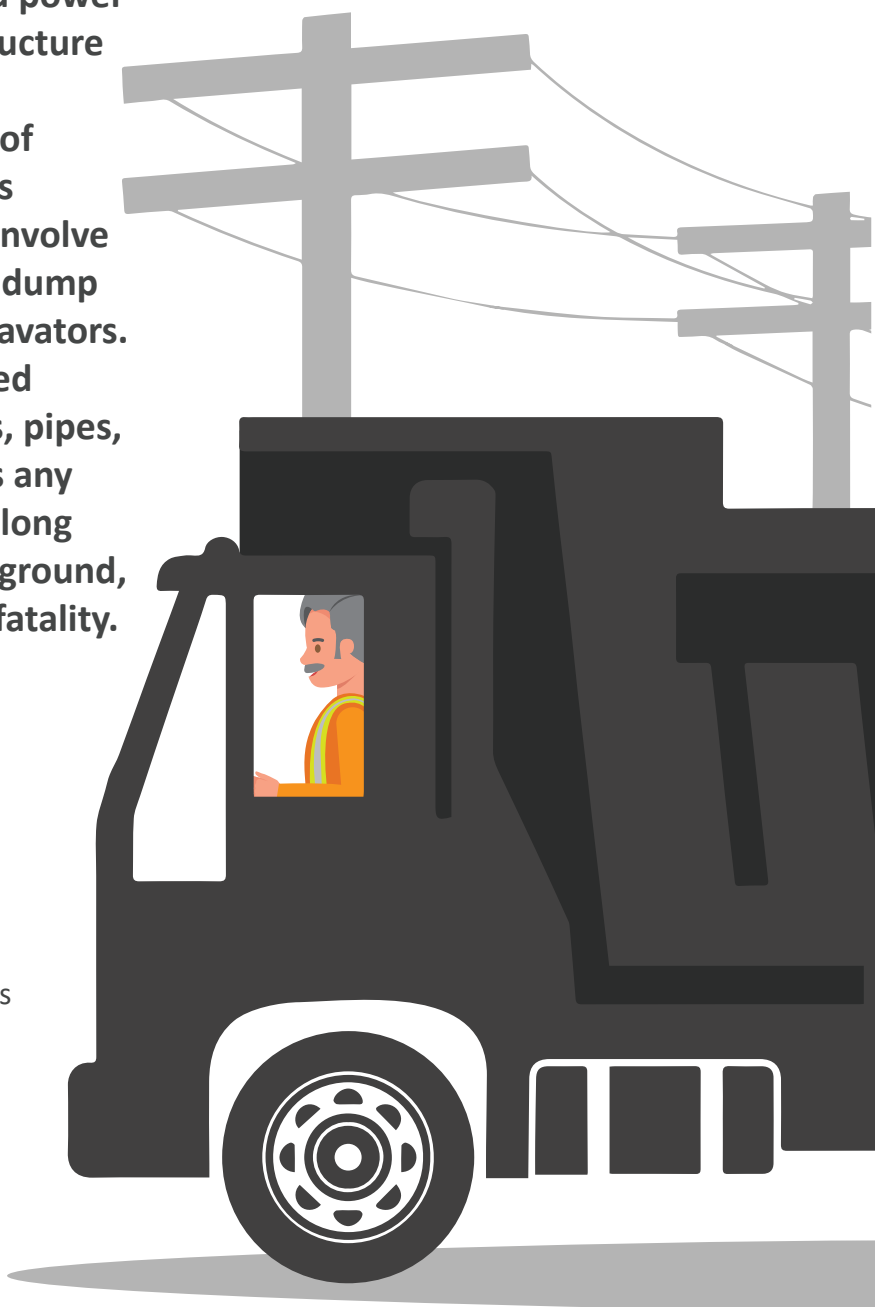
OPERATING EQUIPMENT NEAR POWER LINES

OVER ►

Contact with overhead/underground power lines or any energized part of the structure (conductor) is a major hazard in the construction industry and the cause of numerous fatal accidents and serious injuries. These incidents commonly involve heavy equipment such as backhoes, dump trucks, boom trucks, cranes, and excavators. Additional contacts have also involved equipment such as ladders, scaffolds, pipes, and metal siding. As electricity seeks any path to ground, workers anywhere along that path, including standing on the ground, could be at risk for serious injury or fatality.

Operating Equipment Near Power Lines Tips

- >> Ensure any workers operating equipment near power lines have the appropriate training.
- >> Know the minimum clearance requirements when the permit from the utilities is not in place.
- >> Dial before you dig.
- >> Have emergency response procedures in place in the event contact is made with power lines.



NLCSA
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION



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Utility Contact Information

Newfoundland Power

- Prior to working near overhead power line or before digging or excavating: 1-800-663-2802
- In the event of an EMERGENCY: 1-800-474-5711 or 1-888-491-5066

Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro

- To request an Energized Power Line Permit: 1-888-764-9376
- In the event of an EMERGENCY: 1-888-764-9376

Ensure Any Workers Operating Equipment Near Power Lines Have the Appropriate Training

- Any person who operates a mobile crane, boom truck or similar equipment, that has the capacity of encroaching on a power line, must complete a power line hazards training program through a WorkplaceNL approved training provider.
- It is also important that those workers not operating mobile equipment but are in the area of work being conducted, like laborers and traffic control persons, are made aware of safe work practices and procedures for working around power lines and are aware of emergency response plans in place.

Know the Minimum Clearance Requirements

- A safe clearance distance must be maintained between overhead or underground conductors and anything that could be energized by the conductors. This would include materials, scaffolding, and mobile equipment such as mobile cranes, boom trucks etc.
- An employer is required to obtain the voltage and minimum clearance distance, in the form of an Energized Power Line Clearance Permit, from the power utility (NL Power or Hydro).
- Where a permit from the utility is not in place, a clearance of at least 5.5 meters, or 18 feet, from all power lines must be maintained at all times.

Dial Before You Dig

- Underground lines pose as significant a risk to workers, as overhead lines.
- Contact Newfoundland Power, or Hydro, to determine the exact location of underground power lines.
- The location of the underground lines should also be identified by visible means.

Have Emergency Response Procedures in Place

- When working in proximity to energized conductors, it is critical that employers have developed and communicated an emergency response plan.
- The plan should include emergency contact information, including the numbers for the utility, provisions for first aid and the procedures to follow should contact be made with an energized conductor.