



>> Power Line Hazards

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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.

Training

Any person who operate 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.

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.

Emergency Response

When working in proximity to energized conductors, it is critical that employers have developed and communicated an emergency response plan. This 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.

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

For more information, visit Part XXVI of the Newfoundland and Labrador Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, or drop us a line or give us a call. One of our advisors would be happy to help.

Email : info@nlcsa.com Telephone: 1-709-739-7000 or 1-888-681-SAFE (7233)