

Working near power lines

Potential hazard:

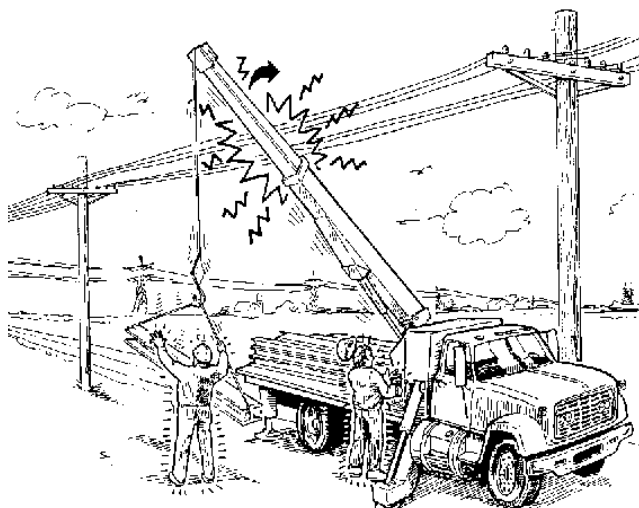
Severe burns or death can happen instantly if contact is made with an electrical power line.

Touching power lines directly is not the only hazard. Many types of equipment can become lethal conductors as well. In fact, most electrocutions involving power lines occur as a result of equipment coming in contact with the lines.

How to control the hazard:

You can reduce the risk of injuries by taking the following preventative measures:

- **Notify Manitoba Hydro.** Anytime you are working within 3 metres (10 feet) of a power line, or are using machinery where any part of the machinery is capable of coming within 3 metres (10 feet) of a power line, you **must** contact Manitoba Hydro *before work commences*. Manitoba Hydro will then:
 - de-energize the line;
 - effectively guard the line against contact; or
 - re-route or displace the electricity from the worksite.



They will provide written confirmation that this protection has been provided.

If Manitoba Hydro is unable to take any of the three protective actions noted above, they will provide instructions on how to safely proceed. These instructions must be followed. In addition, **a signal person must be assigned**. The signal person must warn or signal the equipment operator when the equipment is capable of coming within 3 metres (10 feet) of the line.

- Employers and prime contractors must develop **safe work procedures** for working near overhead electrical lines, train workers in those procedures and ensure that workers comply with them. The safe work procedures should include plans and precautionary actions to be taken at the worksite before work is started, such as:
 - Housekeeping – knocking down spoiled piles, debris, etc.
 - Identifying hazards to all sub-contractors
 - Knowing the limitations/capacity of machines being used
 - Knowing the experience/training and qualifications of the machine operator.

Do not take unnecessary risks. If you are in doubt about the safety of an operation in proximity to electrical transmission lines, contact *Manitoba Hydro*. If you are still not satisfied, contact the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Division for further assistance.

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- Work in the Vicinity of Overhead Electrical Lines: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 25

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: safemanitoba.com

Revised: October 2014

Last Reviewed/Revised: June 2009

SAFE Work Manitoba contact information:

Winnipeg: 204-957-SAFE (7233)

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Publications and resources available at: safemanitoba.com