

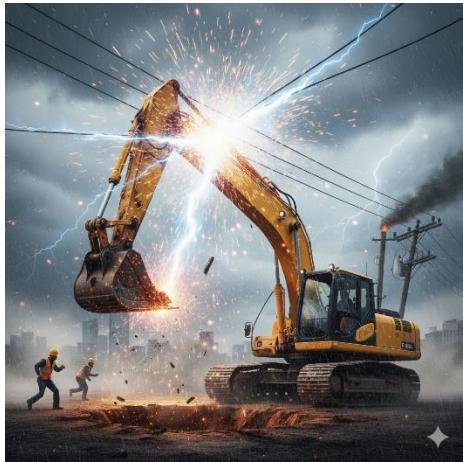
Tool Box Talk

Power Line Safety

Electricity is Invisible

Power line contacts are preventable. But near misses, injuries and deaths near power lines are all too common. There have been more than 6,000 power line contacts in Saskatchewan over the past 10 years. Nine people have lost their lives in that time, and many others have been left with injuries.

Using proper safety procedures near power lines is necessary for your safety and the safety of others around you. Avoiding contact with power lines requires a strong awareness of safety factors and good decision-making ability.



Underestimating the height or width of equipment is often a cause. Fatigue is also a common factor.

Almost half of all power line contacts involve large equipment. Always be aware of your surroundings, and keep SaskPower's Look Up and Live! slogan in mind.

Electricity can arc from a power line to a person without actual contact with the power line. It's not just about contact, it's about how close you are.

Safety Tips

Make these safety steps part of your plan when power lines are identified within 6.1m of the work area:

- Take time to note the location of all power lines in and around your worksite. Be aware of both overhead and underground power lines.
- Before operating equipment, make a safety plan that prevents contact with lines.

- Take the time to examine the hazard and use a trained signaler.
- Always use a spotter on the ground to warn you of any dangers when moving equipment.
- Check the height of your equipment/load and never ride or climb on either when near a power line. Be sure to lower the equipment where needed.
- Don't ground your equipment around a power line.
- Watch for uneven ground that may cause your vehicle to weave, bob or bounce.
- To prevent fatigue, ensure you get plenty of rest before starting work, take multiple breaks and drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- **Call 1-866-828-4888 or visit sask1stcall.com before you dig.** SaskPower will send someone out to locate any underground lines so you can avoid them while doing your work.
- Also, notify SaskPower to have a power line de-energized, disconnected, relocated or isolated if required.

Emergency Procedure

If you contact or see a downed power line, do not get out of your vehicle. Call SaskPower at 306-310-2220 or call 911 immediately to have the power line de-energized. Tell bystanders to stay at least 33 feet (about 10 metres) away. If you need to exit the equipment or vehicle due to an imminent risk, such as a fire, make sure you have a clear and wire-free exit. Then cross your arms, put your legs together, and jump as far as you can, landing on both feet before shuffling or hopping at least 10 metres away.

Legislation

Depending on the voltage of the power line, you need to establish a safe working distance between your equipment and power lines. Follow the applicable limits outlined in Table 19 of the *Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations* and make sure everyone follows these guidelines.

More information:

<https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2024/worker-electrical-safety.html>

<https://www.saskpower.com/safety/electrical-safety/worker-safety/look-up-and-live>