



# **HOW TO WORK SAFELY NEAR POWER LINES.**



CONNECTING AT THE SPEED OF LIFE™

# **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.**

If you work with dump trucks, boom trucks, ladder trucks, bucket trucks, cranes, augers, excavators, backhoes, scaffolds, ladders or other equipment with a long reach, chances are you're working dangerously close to overhead or underground power lines. We call that the Zap Zone.

The Zap Zone isn't just the power line itself: it's also the surrounding air space (measured in metres) which insulates the line. Of course you know better than to touch a power line. But operating equipment too close to a power line is risky too.

The fact is, you or your equipment can attract electricity without even touching the wire itself. Electricity can arc or "jump" through the insulating space between a wire and a conducting object like a truck or a ladder. The higher the voltage, the more likely it is for an arc to occur. Keeping a safe distance away saves lives.

**Stay Safe. Steer Clear of the Zap Zone.**



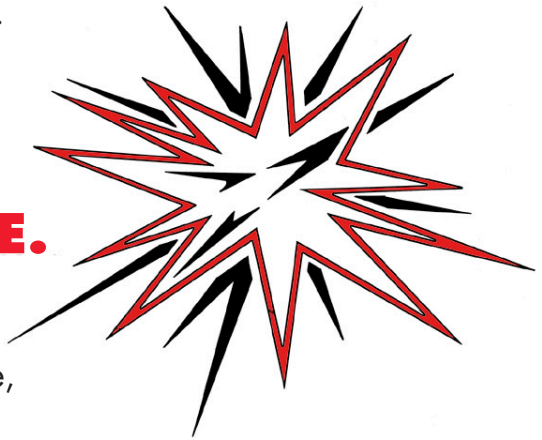
## **BE AWARE OF ALL POWER LINES.**



- Before you start work, be sure you and your co-workers know where all the power lines are, above and below the ground. Consider them energized and dangerous.
- Where necessary, arrange to have power lines insulated, de-energized or moved. For Hydro One Networks overhead power lines, contact our Customer Communications Centre at 1-888-664-9376.
- Call for a cable-locate before you dig, to avoid contacting underground power lines. Call "Ontario 1 Call" at 1-800-400-2255 for cables greater than 50,000 volts; or our Customer Communications Centre at 1-888-664-9376 for cables less than 50,000 volts.



## **KNOW YOUR ZAP ZONE.**



- Keep at least 3 metres away from all power lines (or more, depending on the voltage).

- **KNOW YOUR SAFE LIMITS.**

**750 to 150,000 volts - 3 metres**

**150,001 to 250,000 volts - 4.5 metres**

**250,001+ volts - 6 metres**

- Even power lines carrying less than 750 volts can kill. Avoid touching them or coming too close.
- Avoid storing material or equipment under power lines. If it must be stored there, hang warning signs to prevent other workers from using hoisting-equipment to move or lift it.
- Before moving ladders, rolling scaffolds or elevating work platforms, always check for overhead lines.



**GET A  
SIGNALLER.**



- You must have a signaller who can warn you when any part of the equipment or load approaches the Zap Zone – the minimum allowable distance from the power line.
- The signaller should stand at least 10 metres away from the vehicle in case an electrical contact occurs.



## WHAT TO DO IF...

...you are operating equipment that contacts a power line.

### STAY WHERE YOU ARE

- Another wrong move may result in a serious injury or fatality.
- The equipment and you may now be at the same electrical potential as the power line, and there may be a current flowing through to the ground. Don't touch anything outside the equipment. You might create another path to the ground for the electrical current.
- Warn others to stay at least 10 metres away.

### CALL HYDRO

- Have someone call Hydro One Networks or the local utility to get help. Also call 911 or the emergency responders in your area.

### IF YOU MUST GET OUT

- Only as a last resort, if you must get off the equipment due to fire or other hazards, you must do so without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.



- Jump about 45 cm to 60 cm away from the equipment, landing with feet together, and arms close to your body.
- Keep your feet together (touching) and shuffle at least 10 metres away. Your heels should never pass your toes.

## **RESCUE**

- When a power line has fallen, always consider it to be energized.
- Stay back at least 10 metres.
- Rescue can only be attempted safely by a person trained to use special live-line tools. Never attempt a rescue if you are untrained.



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