



Overhead high-voltage electricity

Builders must identify the location and voltage of all overhead electrical conductors at a worksite. Remember to count transformers as conductors.

During land clearing, there may be a danger of trees being felled or pushed into overhead power lines.

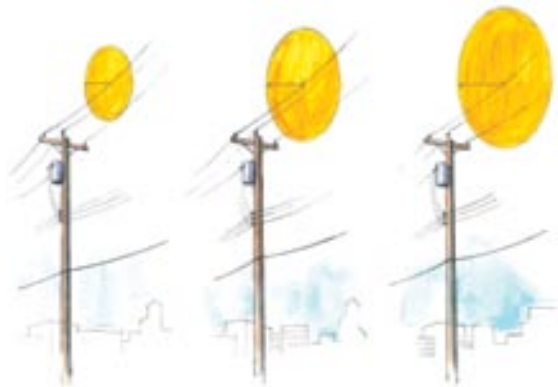
When any work activity takes place near energized overhead high-voltage lines, the following procedures must be followed:

- Determine what activities may take place near overhead high-voltage lines.
- Determine the voltage of the overhead lines through the authority controlling the system (for example, BC Hydro).
- Maintain minimum clearance (see voltage–distance table) at all times.
- Do not use a tape measure or stick to physically measure the distance from an energized power line. Estimate the distance from the ground, and if in doubt, provide for more clearance.

Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Distance (Metres) (Feet)	
751 V to 75 kV	3	10
Over 75 kV to 250 kV	4.5	15
Over 250 kV to 550 kV	6	20

If the minimum distance from the electrical conductor cannot be maintained, and movement by a worker or equipment may result in entering these minimum distances:

1. **STOP work** immediately.
2. **Call the power authority** controlling the electrical system, **and arrange for a worksite meeting**. At the meeting, decide whether the energized electrical conductors can be de-energized, effectively guarded, or displaced/rerouted.
3. **Get assurance in writing** (form 30M33) from the power authority indicating which of the three actions they will take and when it will be done. Form 30M33 is available from the local electrical utility or WorkSafeBC office.
4. **Keep written assurances** on the worksite, **and inform all workers** who will be directly affected by the power authority actions.
5. **Designate a qualified safety-watcher** who can
 - Monitor equipment and material movement
 - Give an instant STOP signal to the equipment operator when the equipment or load is too close to the electrical conductor
 - Make sure equipment, work tools, or loads do NOT contact the electrical guarding.



Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com