

Electrical safety

It can happen in an instant: an antenna, kite or tree branch reaches an overhead power line, a shovel strikes an underground line, or a downed line lands on a fence. These situations can be fatal. For your safety Pacific Power keeps power lines high in the air and buried beneath the ground, away from most day-to-day activities. There are also safety precautions you should take to prevent serious or fatal injuries from electrical accidents.

Look up

Always be aware of the location of any nearby overhead power lines. Be careful not to lift or move any long or tall items such as gutters, TV antennas or ladders that can conduct electricity to you. And never fly kites or model airplanes near lines.

Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations require professionals to keep themselves and any tools they use 10 feet or farther away from overhead power lines. The average person should stay much farther away. Why? Electricity is unforgiving. It will take the easiest path to the ground, even through you. If you or an object you are holding accidentally becomes part of the pathway, you could be electrocuted.

Call before you dig

Digging into underground power lines can be just as dangerous as contacting an overhead line. What's more, it can sever a line, meaning damage costs and the inconvenience of interrupting power. At least 48 hours before you plant a tree, dig holes for fence posts or install underground sprinklers, call 811 or the utility locating service for your state:

California, 1-800-227-2600

Oregon, 1-800-332-2344

Washington, 1-800-553-4344

Downed power lines

- Never touch or go near a fallen power line and do not touch anything on which the wire is resting.
- Always assume a downed line is energized. If you see one down, call us at 1-888-221-7070
- Do not touch or go near a person in contact with a downed power line. Call 911.
- If a power line falls across your car while you are inside, stay put until help arrives. If you attempt to leave the vehicle, you may be electrocuted. If the car is on fire and you must exit, JUMP as far away as possible, with both feet together. Continue hopping with both feet together away from the area.

Children's safety

- Never climb or play in trees near power lines or climb power poles or transmission towers

- Fly kites out of the way of power lines. Never use metallic string or fly a kite in rainy weather.
- Stay out of electrical substations and off of any object marked DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE.

Tree pruning

- Always check for power lines in or near trees before trimming or pruning branches. If a power line is near, call us or call an arborist certified to work near power lines.
- Don't use pruning tools, ladders or other long or tall objects near power lines. If the lines are accidentally touched, you could be seriously injured or killed.
- Never try to remove a branch that is tangled or lying across power lines. Call us to have the branch removed.

Home repairs and improvements

- Be extremely cautious not to carry ladders, pool skimmers, metal irrigation pipes or TV or CB antennas near overhead power lines. They all conduct electricity.
- Before working, locate all nearby power lines, poles and structures.
- Assume every power line is energized.

Farm and field work

- Check for overhead power lines before lifting or clearing debris from irrigation pipes.
- Never stack hay bales or other items under overhead power lines.
- Do not spray water on power lines or equipment.
- Keep farm machinery away from power lines, poles and guy wires (the support lines for power poles). If you strike a guy wire or pole, call us immediately at 1-888-221-7070, as you may have weakened the structure or created slack in the line.

Contractors

- Use spotters when operating lift trucks or other power equipment to make sure you don't contact overhead lines.
- Stay as far away as possible from overhead lines, never coming within 10 feet. Stay even farther away from high-voltage transmission lines. If you must work within 10 feet of overhead lines, call us to make special arrangements.

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.pacificpower.net or call 1-888-221-7070.

