

Call before you dig

Digging into underground power lines is just as dangerous as contacting an overhead power line. Call **811** to reach the underground utility locating service in your area **at least 48 hours before you dig or move earth in any way.**

(If you need an alternate number, call us toll free at 1-888-221-7070.) Having utility lines located before you dig prevents injury from contacting electrical power or natural gas lines, and helps you avoid expensive repair costs caused by damaging utility lines.



Safe work habits

The best way to avoid injury from power lines is to make a personal commitment to safety. All the rules, regulations and safety reminders in the world are useless if they aren't followed.

Your commitment should be consistent and ongoing, and it should be based on the following principle:

The most valuable quantity on any job at any time is never the materials, the equipment, the profit or the deadline. The most valuable quantity, without exception, is always human life.

To order free safety materials or schedule a free safety presentation, please call us at 1-800-375-7085. For all other information and for safety assistance around power lines, call toll free at 1-888-221-7070.

More information is available at pacificpower.net/safety.

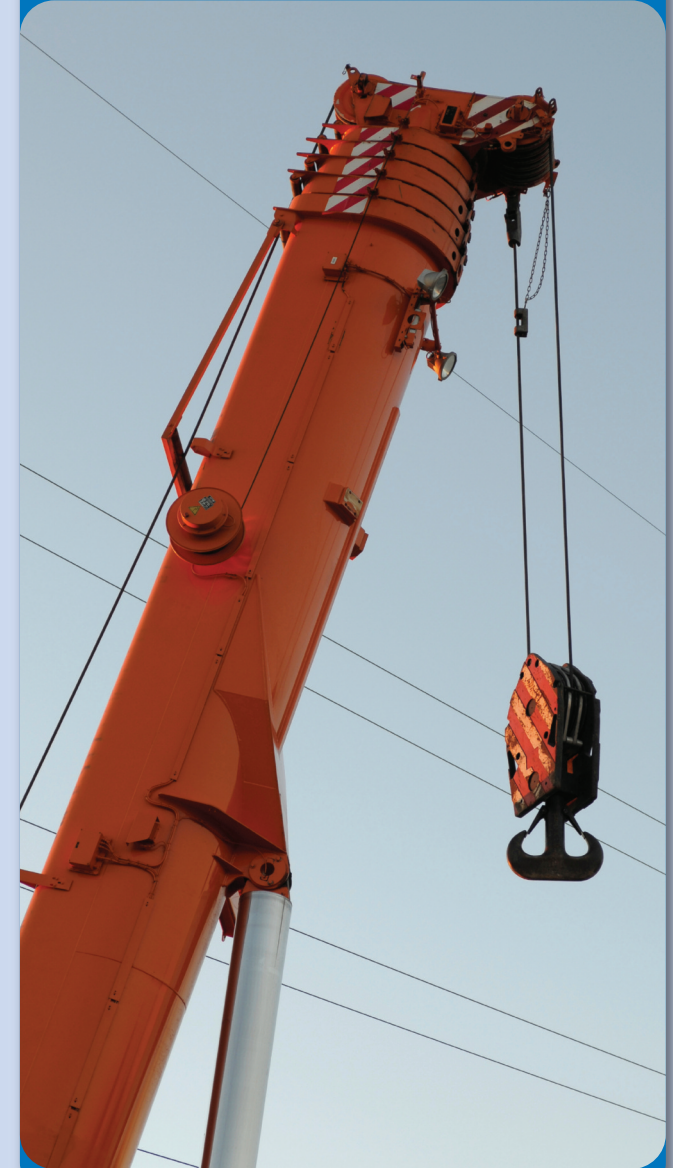


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Let's turn the answers on.

Working safely around power lines

A guide for contractors



Contact with power lines can be fatal

Safety matters

Being aware of the location of power lines – both overhead and underground – and keeping a safe distance are two of the most important steps you can take to safeguard yourself and your co-workers on the job. **Severe injury or death can occur if contact with an energized power line is made.**

The 20-foot Rule for Cranes and Derricks

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require that contractors and workers operating cranes or derricks stay at least 20 feet* away from overhead power lines.

Circle of Safety*

The radius referred to as the “Circle of Safety,” is for your safety. It means that you, your equipment and tools must stay a minimum distance away from power lines as defined by OSHA regulations or you are breaking the law and can be fined.

**See OSHA regulations and state Overhead Safety Acts for required distances.*



Heavy equipment and power lines

Careful positioning of heavy equipment is required to ensure safety for workers and equipment operators. The location of heavy equipment such as cranes should be planned jointly in advance by Pacific Power and the contractor. Even with pre-planning, heavy equipment and work operations might be located near high-voltage lines. In these situations, use a safety watch (see below). Lines also might need to be de-energized.

A safety watch

A watch should be positioned near the heavy equipment the entire time it is being operated near high-voltage lines. The watch's only duties should be observing the work and communicating with the operator to ensure the equipment never violates the Circle of Safety.

If contact occurs

If contact occurs, follow these guidelines:

- If you're on the ground, stay on the ground – and stay away. Coming close to the energized equipment can only increase the danger.
- If you can move the equipment away from the line safely, do so. Otherwise, don't move until the line can be de-energized.
- If you're in your vehicle or equipment, stay put. This is your safest option until help arrives.
- If you must leave the vehicle because of fire or some other life-threatening situation, JUMP, with both feet together. Hop or shuffle with both feet together until you're safely away (at least 30 feet). Don't touch the ground and the energized equipment at the same time.
- If a line has fallen on the ground, or on a piece of equipment or some other object, always assume it is energized. Stay clear, keep others away and contact Pacific Power toll free at **1-888-221-7070** or call 911 for help.



De-energize the lines

If equipment must operate within the Circle of Safety, Pacific Power must be contacted on proper safety precautions before starting work. The lines can be de-energized or grounded or other protective measures can be taken.

Tools, equipment and other conductive materials

Heavy equipment isn't the only threat to the Circle of Safety. Lengthy tools and equipment such as bull float handles, rebar and long sections of metal conduit are just a few of the conductive objects that can break the Circle of Safety when used near power lines. Always remember that the Circle of Safety means that you and any equipment you are touching, carrying or operating must maintain the minimum approach distance as defined by OSHA regulations while performing any work near overhead power lines.