



Understand the basics

A path to ground

Electricity always seeks the ground and will travel the easiest path to get there. Electricity travels through anything that will conduct it – metal, water, trees, animals and people.

Electrical accidents that burn, injure or kill occur when a person accidentally or unwittingly becomes part of the pathway of electricity seeking a way to ground.

Overhead dangers

Overhead lines carry a potentially dangerous charge. These lines are not insulated. Supporting poles and towers are insulated where lines meet structures to prevent electrical current from traveling down the structure to the ground. But when foreign objects such as poles, ladders, animals or people make contact with lines, the result can be deadly. Even being in close proximity carries a risk not worth taking. That's why the law requires a minimum Circle of Safety of more than 20 feet* for any work around lines.

**Please refer to the OSHA regulation which clearly identifies the distance you must maintain while performing any work near overhead power lines.*

Contact us

- For more electrical safety information, please visit pacificpower.net/safety.
- To report damaged lines or accidents, call us toll free at **1-888-221-7070**. In the event of an emergency, call 911.
- To have underground lines marked at no cost, please call 811 at least 48 hours before you plan to dig or plow.
- To schedule a free safety presentation for your group, call our safety experts toll free at 1-800-375-7085.



Let's turn the answers on.

Electrical safety

on your farm or ranch



Let's turn the answers on.

Safety rules

to live and work by

Electricity is a workhorse of agriculture. It lights and powers homes, barns and shops; runs dairy equipment; pumps water for irrigation; and helps move, condition and store crops.

Agriculture has its share of dangers, and electricity presents a potential danger if not understood and respected. But, electrical accidents can almost always be avoided. Electricity doesn't have to be a threat. It is a useful tool when treated with care.

Pacific Power wants you and your crew to avoid electric hazards by keeping basic safety rules in mind.

Look up

Always look up for overhead power lines before beginning any activity.

Keep your distance

Keep everyone and everything – you, the tools and materials you are handling and the equipment you are operating – away from overhead power lines. Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require that cranes and derricks be kept a minimum of 20 feet* from overhead lines.

- Never stand an irrigation pipe on end near a power line.
- Always lower grain augers and other crop handling and tillage equipment before moving them anywhere near power lines. When you move equipment near power lines, have someone spot for you.
- Stack irrigation pipe, hay and hay bales away from power lines.



Irrigate with care

Do not spray water on power lines, equipment or structures. In addition to damaging the equipment and short circuiting the electrical system, a stream of water hitting a power line can create a path for electricity.

Call 811 before you dig

Whenever you dig – whether it's a single posthole or a major excavation – you run the risk of rupturing a gas line or contacting a high-voltage electrical line. *Always locate underground facilities such as electricity, gas, water, sewer or telecommunications before digging or ripping into the ground.* Call 811 to have your state's locating service mark utility lines before you dig.

Use caution when moving equipment near power poles

Beware of hooking guy wires when moving equipment. Even if you don't bring a structure or wire down, you could weaken the structure or create a slack in the line. Keep vehicles, tools and people clear of guy wires at all times.

Equipment and power

If your tractor, truck, combine or other equipment comes into contact with a power line, stay on board to remain safe, and warn others to stay away from

the area. If the equipment is operable and you can safely move it out of contact without doing additional damage to the line or poles, do so.

As long as the equipment is in contact with a line, do not step off the equipment! If you must get off because of fire or another emergency, JUMP clear of the equipment with both feet together, making sure you are never in contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time. Once off the equipment, hop with both feet together until you are safely away (at least 30 feet).

Giving aid

If you are responding to an electrical accident, do not attempt to aid the victim until the source of the current is shut off or the victim is no longer a path to ground. If you touch a person who is still in contact with a power source, you become another path to ground and can be hurt. Rescuers cannot provide help if they become victims themselves.

Please call Pacific Power at **1-888-221-7070** to report any contact with electrical equipment.

Your **safety matters** to us