



Overhead Power Line Safety

Overhead power lines at construction sites can be dangerous for workers. This is especially true for those using equipment such as cranes, aerial lifts, high lifts, and ladders. Contact with overhead power lines can result in serious injury and even death.

Lawrence's Story

Lawrence was part of a crew using a boom crane to install steel roof beams on a school building. He was standing by the joists, waiting to hook the beams to the chain slings. When the crane operator swung the slings toward him, they touched the power line, became energized, and sent electricity through Lawrence. An ambulance rushed him to the hospital, but he was declared dead on arrival.

- ✂ What caused this incident?
- ✂ How could this have been prevented?
- ✂ Have you ever been injured by contact with an overhead power line, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Look Up!** Locate overhead power lines before starting work.
- Check with your supervisor to make sure the power company has de-energized and grounded the overhead power lines. When in doubt, assume **all** overhead lines are energized and dangerous.
- Use only nonconductive (or insulated) tag lines.
- **Never** store materials or equipment under or near overhead power lines.
- **Never** touch or go near a person or piece of equipment that is touching an overhead power line. **Call 911.**

Use safe distance and caution on the worksite

- Keep machinery, equipment, and loads a safe distance (20 feet or more) from energized, uncovered power lines.
- Maintain a safe distance between the equipment and overhead power lines. Wind can cause the lines to sway and reduce the clearance between them and equipment.
- Stay at least 20 feet away from machines that are close to covered power lines.
- Operate machines at a slower-than-normal rate when close to power lines. Use a spotter to keep a safe distance from power lines.
- Follow routes marked as safe (often color coded) when on a machine that must go under power lines.
- Use caution when traveling over uneven ground. This could cause the machine to weave or bob into power lines.

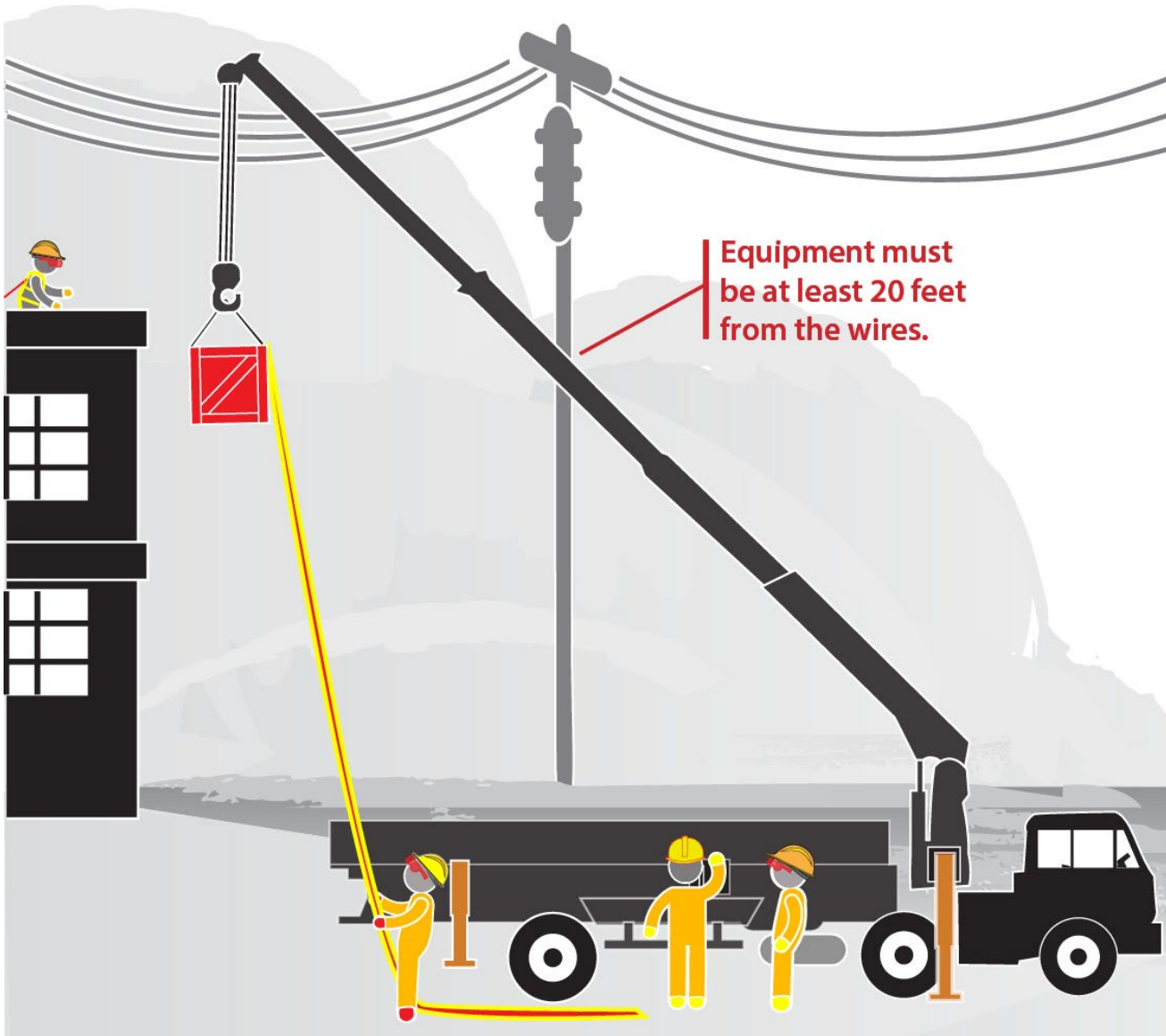
How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from contact with an overhead power line?

OSHA Standards: 1926.1408 and 1926.955



Overhead Power Line Safety



- ✓ **Look Up!** Locate overhead power lines before starting work.
- ✓ Check with your supervisor to make sure the energy to the overhead power lines has been shut off before using equipment.
- ✓ Keep machinery, equipment, and loads at least 20 feet from energized, uncovered power lines, and use a spotter to keep a safe distance.
- ✓ **Never** touch or go near a person or piece of equipment that is touching an overhead power line. **Call 911.**

**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | [cdc.gov/info](https://www.cdc.gov/info) | [cdc.gov/niosh/construction](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction)
CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks
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