

MOCGA Tailgate Talk

Overhead Line Safety



Introduction: Accidental power line contacts can severely injure and kill employees. Power lines are present on almost all jobsites and can be contacted by ladders, booms, bull float handles, cables and dump beds. Workers rarely survive a power line contact and are severely burned as the electricity takes path to ground through their body. When workers do survive, they are must ordeal months of surgery, treatment, infections and rehabilitation in burn units. Electrical burns are life-changing events that can be prevented!

BE SAFE!

ALWAYS READ BOOM OR EQUIPMENT WARNING LABELS. FOLLOW ALL POWER LINE WARNINGS!

Safety Tips for Power Line Contact!

- ✓ Survey the work area for overhead power lines before extending any booms or raising any beds.
- ✓ Look up before raising any kind of tool or boom.
- ✓ Ask the power company to protect power lines that are too close to work areas.
- ✓ Some overhead power lines may need to be shut down by the power company to ensure safe work.
- ✓ Move dumping and unloading areas away from power lines.
- ✓ Place cones, flags or signs below overhead lines to warn operators and drivers about overhead hazards.
- ✓ Use tag lines when using cranes to lift objects. The crane's cable could contact a power line. Tag lines (ropes) prevent the groundman from being shocked through the hands.
- ✓ Survey trees for hidden power lines before beginning tree trimming.
- ✓ Stay back ten feet from overhead power lines.
- ✓ Electricity can arc through the air like lightning, seeking path to ground through your truck, body or equipment.
- ✓ Use non-conductive ladders and boom truck booms when doing any kind of electrical work.
- ✓ Remember that rain water or wet non-conductive equipment can become conductive.
- ✓ Dump truckers should not "dump and roll" if there is any chance an overhead line could be contacted.
- ✓ Track hoes and loaders can contact lines with their buckets.
- ✓ **REMEMBER max boom extension – if your boom COULD contact the power line, consider repositioning your machine or contact the power company to protect the power lines.**



SURVEY ALL WORK AREAS FOR OVERHEAD POWER LINES BEFORE LIFTING ANY DUMP BEDS OR CRANE BOOMS.



IF YOUR MACHINE CONTACTS AN OVERHEAD POWER LINE:

1. **Call 911 Immediately**
2. **Stay on the Machine**
3. **If the machine catches fire, jump clear of the machine. DO NOT touch the machine and the ground at the same time.**
4. **Drag your feet until you're well clear of the incident.**

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 02-16-2019 by MW

MOCGA Tailgate Talk

Overhead Line Safety



DATE OF TRAINING	INSTRUCTOR NAME
COMPANY NAME	LOCATION OF TRAINING
PARTICIPANT NAMES	
SAFETY MEETING NOTES	