What Are the Dangers of Electricity?
Contact can cause explosion, fire, electrocution.

On the worksite

- Equipment contacting a live electrical line can cause fire, explosion, or electrocution
- Electricity can arc from the line to the equipment
- Electricity can cause severe burns and death

Work around electricity only

- When you are trained in all aspects of the job
- When you have a reason to be there
How Do We Treat Above-Ground Utilities?

Use extreme caution and keep your distance.

When working around a power line

- Get the utility company to mark, flag, and shield lines
- Assume it is live until tested, have it de-energized and visibly grounded
- If it must remain energized, keep equipment and load at least 10 feet away and use a spotter to warn the operator
- Post signs at ground level to mark safe distance
- Make all workers and drivers who must enter the area aware of the overhead lines

Tips for operators

- Mark a safe route for repeated travel
- Slow down

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voltage</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 kV or below</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50 - 200 kV</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;200 - 350 kV</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;350 - 500 kV</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;500 - 750 kV</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;750 - 1,000 kV</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More in fog or rain
What If Contact Happens?

Do not touch equipment or person in contact.

**If you are on the ground**
- Stay away from the vehicle!
- Do not touch any equipment or person in contact with the line
- Get the lines de-energized

**If you are in the vehicle**
- Stay in the vehicle and do not touch any metal
- If you must get out, jump clear, then shuffle slowly away

Until lines are de-energized, the operator may be safest in machine.
Can We Be Safe Around Buried Utilities?

Contact can cause explosion, fire, electrocution.

Before digging

- Call electrical, gas, and communications utilities
- Review marked out areas. They may not be exact. Dig by hand within 2 feet of mark-out.

When digging, look for:

Signs of previous digging: changes in soil types, asphalt patches or depressions, concrete, plastic, or gravel

If a line is hit, you must report it

If it’s a gas line, evacuate and secure area, call fire department