

Are you working near overhead or underground **power lines**?

Stay away from power lines. Know the hazards.

Electrical current will flow along wires without causing any harm unless it is somehow interrupted, so keep a “minimum safe distance” between yourself, or any conducting object, and power lines at all times. Electrical power lines are not insulated with a protective outer covering. Electricity seeks the fastest and shortest route to ground. If you are the object that interrupts the flow, electricity will be conducted through you to the ground causing injury or death.

Most electrical accidents are caused by people making contact with overhead power lines. If you touch them or even get too close to them with anything such as a ladder, boom truck or any other piece of equipment, the current will be directed to the ground through the object and you, causing injury or death.

Prince Edward Island Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations regulate the distances in which unqualified workers may encroach upon energized conductors. Part 36 – Electricity states:

“36.20 The employer shall ensure that...an employee shall not carry out any work which is liable to bring any person or apparatus, machine, machine component, material or property within a distance of energized electrical conductors closer than as specified in the following table:”

Nominal Phase to Phase Voltage of Live Power Line	Minimum Distance
Up to 750 volts	900 mm (3 ft.)
751 - 100,000 volts	3600 mm (12 ft.)
100,001 - 250,000 volts	5200 mm (17 ft.)
250,001 - 345,000 volts	6100 mm (20 ft.)

“36.23 The employer shall ensure that when structural repairs, extensions, paint work or any other similar type of work is to be undertaken near energized electrical conductors or equipment, the employer in charge of the work shall ensure that (a) the conductors are properly de-energized; or (b) the energized electrical conductors or equipment are adequately insulated or guarded.”

To find out the voltage you are working around, please call Maritime Electric at 1-800-670-1012.

To call for cover-up:

Call Maritime Electric at 1-800-670-1012 **at least 24 hours before** you begin a job that could bring you or your equipment inside the minimum safe distance. Upon visiting the site, arrangements can be made to provide protective cover for power lines and advice on vehicle grounding.

Where protective cover has been provided, call Maritime Electric upon completion of your job to arrange for removal. **Line cover-up can be used to reduce, but not eliminate the risk of an electrical injury.**

To call for underground locates:

Underground wiring is becoming more common. Underground power lines are insulated and protected, but if damaged they are as dangerous as uninsulated overhead power lines.

If you plan to dig, call Maritime Electric at 1-800-670-1012 **at least 24 hours before** you plan to dig. A representative can locate underground

energized power lines to prevent an accidental contact.

What to do if you come into contact with a line:

In the event your equipment makes contact with an energized powerline, have someone contact us to get help and call 911 for any injuries.

- Stay in the vehicle or equipment until help has arrived. Another wrong move may result in a serious injury or fatality.
- The equipment (and you) may now be at the same electrical potential as the power line and there may be a current flowing through to the ground. Do not touch anything outside the equipment. You might create another path to the ground for the electrical current.
- Warn others to stay at least 15 meters away.
- Only as a last resort, if you must get off the equipment due to fire or other hazards, you must do so without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.
- Jump about 60 cm away from the equipment, landing with feet together and arms close to your body.
- Keep your feet together (touching) and shuffle at least 20 meters away. Your heels should never pass your toes.

Did you know?

In the event a Maritime Electric's equipment is damaged as a result of contact with an overhead or underground power line, the organization deemed responsible will be liable for costs associated to repairing the damage.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, resources or to book a safety presentation, call **1-800-670-1012** or visit **maritimeelectric.com**.

