



# MIOSHA Fact Sheet

## Construction Safety & Health Division

## Electrical Safety

## Power Line Clearances

Electricity is such a familiar part of our surroundings that it often is not treated with the respect it deserves. Electrocutation is one of the leading causes of fatalities in the construction industry. MIOSHA has investigated 33 fatal electrocutions in construction in the 10-year period of 2002 through 2012.

There are several Construction Safety standards that address power line safety; each having specific requirements for minimum clearances and protection. It is imperative you know which rules apply!

**Cranes** are required to maintain a minimum of **20 feet** clearance from energized electrical power lines that are 350KV or less and **50 feet** if the power lines are more than 350KV. If the power line voltage is verified by the utility owner, the minimum clearance distances may be reduced to 10 feet or as stipulated in Table A. (Part 10, Lifting and Digging Equipment, Rule 1016a-e)

**Excavators** are required to maintain a minimum clearance of **10 feet** or as stipulated in Table A. (Part 10, Lifting and Digging Equipment, Rule 1041a (25))

**Aerial Work Platforms** must maintain a minimum clearance distances of **10 feet**. (Part 32, Aerial Work Platforms, Rule 3209(1))

**Metal Ladders** are a highly recognized danger around power lines! No part of the person's body or the metal ladder can be closer than **20 feet** to power lines. (Part 11, Portable and Fixed Ladders, Rule 1124(7))

**Scaffolds** have specific minimum clearance distances from energized parts. The minimum clearance distance for uninsulated electrical lines is **10 feet**. For insulated lines up to 300 volts, the minimum clearance distance is **3 feet**. (Part 12, Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms, Rules 1212(4), 1212(5) and 1212(6))

**Other Tools, Material and Mobile Equipment** – e.g., paint rollers, long-handled cement finishing floats, metal framing, metal roofing materials, gutters forklifts, dumb trucks, concrete pump truck booms and loaders are required to maintain a minimum clearance of **10 feet** from power lines. (Part 1, General Rules, Rule 115(4))

### How to Avoid Contact with Power Lines

- Look for overhead power lines prior to beginning job. Post warning signs.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Contact MISS DIG and property owner for buried power line locations.
- Until confirmed with utility company, assume that overhead lines are energized.
- Re-route, de-energize and visibly ground lines, or use other protective measures when working near power lines. Other protective measures include guarding or insulating the lines.
- Use non-conductive wood or fiberglass ladders when working near power lines and maintain minimum clearances.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

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