



#7 OVERHEAD WIRE SAFETY

Talk Leader Instructions:

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

WORK ACTIVITY

Incidents involving high voltage power lines are 100% preventable. Think ahead and look up!

BACKGROUND

Electricity is dangerous! Less than one amps of electricity flowing through the human body can shock, burn, severely injure or cause death. Electricity travels at approximately 299,330 km per second – you'll have no time to react. To be safe, never put yourself into electricity's path. "Conductors" of electricity include metal, water, humans and even non-metallic materials such as equipment tires, trees, and rope. Be careful!

KEY POINTS

- ✓ Review the complete Standard Operating Practices for this work at least every year or at the start of the season when you will be doing this type of work.
- ✓ Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call the electric utility company to do repairs.
- ✓ Look up! Electricity can arc when a conductor just comes near a wire. You don't have to actually touch it! So stay at least 3 metres away from all overhead wires.
- ✓ If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Contact the local electric utility company and emergency services for help.
- ✓ When working with ladders, check around to make sure that if it falls, the ladder can't come into contact with power lines.
- ✓ Never operate electrical equipment in bad weather. Thunderstorms, rain, winds and damp or icy ground can cause you to lose control and come into contact with power lines.

ON THE FARM...

- ✓ Before moving high profile equipment such as elevators, augers, front-end loaders, dump boxes, or equipment with antennas under power lines, make sure there is at least three metres of clearance. Lower equipment prior to moving it under power lines.
- ✓ Remember that snow build-up or backfill on the ground, or sagging lines weighed down with ice or snow, can reduce the usual distance between the lines and equipment operating below. *(cont'd on page 2)*



#7 OVERHEAD WIRE SAFETY PAGE 2

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ON THE FARM... (cont'd from page 1)

- ✓ Look up before you work! Whether you are raising irrigation pipe or picking produce from trees, ensure that nothing you are working with will come within three metres of overhead wires.
- ✓ The overhead wires on our farm are located at: _____

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

Call your supervisor.

Our local hydro provider is: _____ Tel: _____

The farm civic address is: _____

MORE RESOURCES

Electrical Safety Authority, "Powerline Safety", <http://www.powerlinesafety.info/attheFarm-001.php>

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS:

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____