



Staying safe around power lines

Working near overhead power lines

Locate all overhead power lines before starting work

- Hold a pre-job walk through review of electrical lines and locations.
- Install signs identifying overhead electrical lines and the hazard they present.

Stay at least 10' away from overhead power lines

- Maintain at least 10' of separation between an overhead power line and any material or equipment that you are in contact with or are operating.

Do not touch anything that contacts a power line

- **Do not** try to remove any tools or equipment that makes contact with a power line.
- **Do not** attempt to rescue anyone in contact with an electrical line.

Carry equipment and ladders horizontally

- **Do not** carry tools or equipment over your head.

Call 811 before you dig

- Have underground utilities located and marked before digging.
- Always be aware of what's above - identify where overhead power lines are located before using a fire engine ladder, any excavation or lifting equipment or trucks with lift beds or booms.
- Always use caution when digging near any utility lines. If a line is hit or gets damaged, move away from the area, if safe to do so, then contact PSE. **Do not** assume the line is not energized.
- If a power line is struck by a shovel or digging bar, do not try to remove the equipment and stay away until made safe by the utility company.
- Use caution when working near any exposed utility lines.
- **Never** cut or window conduits that might have electrical lines inside.



Working safely around downed power lines

Assume all lines on the ground are energized

- Just because a line looks dead doesn't mean it is. Lines can become energized at any moment.
- The coating on a line is not going to insulate you from getting shocked.

Stay 35' away from a downed power line

- Energized lines give off "ripples" of voltage called gradient rings. Stepping between two rings will cause a shock from the ground.
- If you find yourself near a downed power line, shuffle at least 35' away with both feet together. **Do not** take steps.

Do not attempt to move a downed power line

- Wood, tools, and equipment conduct electricity. **Do not** attempt to touch or move a downed line.
- **Do not** attempt to rescue anyone or anything touching a downed power line.

Do not drive over a downed power line

- Power lines coil up on the ground and often get attached to vehicles when driven over. **Do not** attempt to reverse the vehicle as this could worsen the situation.
- If you get stuck on a power line, **stay in your vehicle** and call 911.

Stay in your vehicle if trapped under a downed power line

- Stay calm! Call 911 and stay inside your vehicle. **Do not** get out unless life or death risk.
- If you must exit your vehicle:
 - Get to the door.
 - Cross your arms.
 - Jump out in a controlled manner with both feet together.
 - **Do not** touch the vehicle getting out or after you exit the vehicle.
 - **Do not** reach back for items or children.
- Shuffle 35' away to safety with both feet together. **Do not** hold another person's hand, step or run away.