

Safety tips for people working under power lines



One of the causes of public injuries and fatalities is unsafe activities under powerlines.



Most of the victims are drivers of large machinery such as tipper trucks, combines, or cranes or people who work with ladders, irrigation pipes, and tunnels that could touch the power lines.



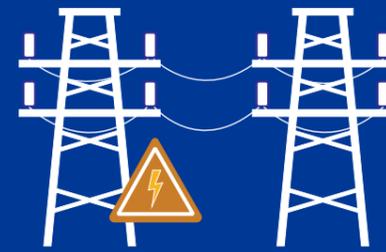
If a crane on the back of a truck touches a live powerline, the whole crane becomes electrified and anybody then touching that crane could be seriously injured or killed.

Truck drivers come into contact with electricity while working under overhead powerlines e.g. offloading with a tipper truck or a crane. Truck drivers drive into Eskom lines and hook the powerlines.



Please apply these tips when you are working under powerlines

Always assume overhead lines are **live** and potentially **dangerous** when planning work near them.



Assess the risks before performing any work under or near overhead power lines.

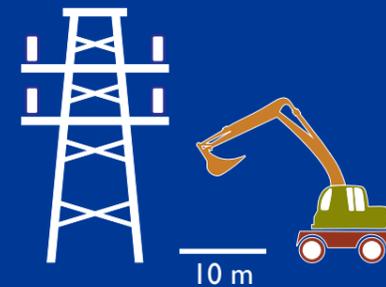
If you have to work under a power line and there are risks, speak to Eskom or the municipality about switching that line off for the duration of the work to be done.



Make sure there is an observer on the ground whenever mobile equipment is in motion close to a power line.

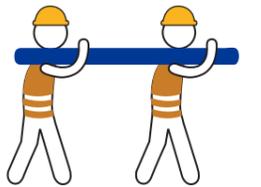


The safest distance to work from a power line is at least **10m away** from the poles and lines.

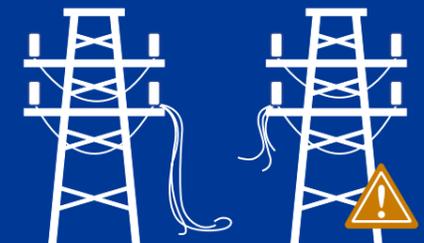


Normally **11kV** power lines are between 5.1m and 5.5m high. Make sure what the height of the equipment is that you may be using. Remember to also consider radio aerials or other roof-mounted items.

Always move irrigation pipes and long ladders or poles horizontally, using two people to carry them.



Watch out for fallen or low hanging power cables, especially after storms.



If a power cable falls onto your vehicle with you inside **do not get out!** Stay inside and wait for Eskom. Call: **086 00 37566** to switch off the power supply to the line before you exit the vehicle.



Safety can be achieved through a combination of measures:

- Planning and preparation ✓
- Eliminating the danger ✓
- Controlling the access ✓
- Controlling the work ✓