

ELECTRICITY IS INVISIBLE

Although power line contacts are preventable, near misses, injuries, and deaths near power lines are all too common. There have been more than 6,000 power line contacts in Saskatchewan over the past 10 years. Nine people have lost their lives in that time and many others have been left with injuries.

Using proper safety procedures near power lines is absolutely necessary for your safety and the safety of others around you. Avoiding contact with power lines requires a strong awareness of safety factors and good decision-making ability.

Underestimating height or width of equipment is usually a cause; fatigue is also a common factor. Almost half of all power line contacts involve large equipment. Always be aware of your surroundings, and keep SaskPower's *Look Up and Live!* slogan in mind.

SAFETY TIPS

Make these safety steps part of your plan when power lines are identified within 6.1m of the work area:

- ✘ Take time to note the location of all power lines in and around your worksite. Be aware of both overhead and underground power lines.
- ✘ Before operating equipment, make a safety plan that prevents contact with lines.
- ✘ Take the time to examine the hazard and use a trained signaler.
- ✘ Always use a spotter on the ground to warn you of any dangers when moving equipment.
- ✘ Check the height of your equipment / load and never ride or climb on either when near a power line. Be sure to lower equipment where needed.

- ✘ Don't ground your equipment around a power line.
- ✘ Watch for uneven ground that may cause your vehicle to weave, bob, or bounce.
- ✘ To prevent fatigue, ensure you get plenty of rest before starting work, take multiple breaks, and drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- ✘ Call 1-866-828-4888 or visit **sask1stcall.com** before you dig. SaskPower will send someone out to locate any underground lines so you can avoid them while doing your work. Also, notify SaskPower to have a power line de-energized, disconnected, relocated, or isolated if required.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

If you contact or see a downed power line, **do not get out of your vehicle**. Call SaskPower at 306-310-2220 or call 911 immediately to have the power line de-energized. Tell bystanders to stay at least 33 feet (about 10 metres) away. If you need to exit the equipment or vehicle due to an imminent risk — such as a fire — make sure you have a clear and wire-free exit. Then cross your arms, put your legs together, and jump as far as you can; landing on both feet before shuffling or hopping at least 10 metres away.

LEGISLATION

Depending on the voltage of the power line, you need to establish a safe working distance between your equipment and power lines. Follow the applicable limits outlined in Table 22 of the *Occupational Health and Safety* (OHS) regulations and make sure everyone follows these guidelines.

RESOURCES

For more information on power line safety, please visit the SCSA Safety Tips webpage:
www.scsaonline.ca/resources/safety_tips

Tool Box Talk

How To Use This Resource

When accidents and incidents happen on the jobsite, we are always quick to point the finger at lack of training, not following practices or procedures, or even improper supervision. The idea that the hazards and dangers associated with the job were not properly communicated to all of the workers is often missed.

Tool Box Talks can go by many names, and although formats may vary, these meetings all serve one purpose: to inform employees and contract workers. Tool Box Talks are short, informal, meetings between management and the workers on a jobsite. The goal of these meetings is to reinforce current safe job procedures, inform workers of new and/or relevant procedures, review recent safety violations/incidents, and ensure workers are up-to-date on the information required to complete their work safely.

Always use a Tool Box Talk form to record the meeting topic, date, who was in attendance, and any follow-up actions to be taken. Not only do these forms help with consistency of record keeping, but they also ensure that nothing is missed. At the end of the meeting have management sign off on the form.



One of the most important aspects of a Tool Box Talk is giving workers an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions. All employees have a right to participate in health and safety as it relates to their work and it is the supervisor or manager's responsibility to create an environment for them to do so. Once the meeting is over, and the form is filled out, it should be filed with other documented Tool Box Talks. Remember that Tool Box Talks are short and informal, they are not meant to be intimidating. Use the opportunity to have fun and stay on top of what is necessary to keep safety culture a strong part of the business.

For a full listing of Tool Box Talk topics, visit: www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks

For a copy of the Tool Box Talk form, visit: www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool_Box_Meeting.pdf

ABOUT THE SASKATCHEWAN CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION

The Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) is an industry-funded, membership-based, non-profit organization that provides cost-effective, accessible safety training and advice to employers and employees in the construction industry throughout the province to reduce the human and financial losses associated with injuries. Registered March 20, 1995, the SCSA is, and has been since inception, committed to injury prevention. Serving almost 10,000 member companies with business offices in both Regina and Saskatoon, the major business units of the association are Advisory Services, Business Development, Corporate Services, Program Services and Training. The mission of the SCSA is constructing safety leadership in Saskatchewan and the vision is to create the safest construction environment in Canada.