

Overhead Power Lines

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

Lifts, booms, ladders and material handlers come out in spring. Contact with an overhead line is usually fatal rather than injurious, and you do not have to touch it for the current to arc across.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Clearance judged by eye from the ground, which is unreliable at every distance.
- A boom or bucket swung without a spotter watching the line rather than the load.
- Lines assumed to be dead, insulated, or telephone rather than power.
- Ladders and scaffold poles carried upright under a line on the way to the work.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Identify every line over this site and treat all of them as live at all times.
- Keep the minimum approach distance for the voltage. If you do not know it, find out first.
- Use a dedicated spotter whose only job is watching the gap to the line.
- Plan equipment routes so machinery never needs to pass under a line.
- If equipment does contact a line, stay in the cab, warn everyone off and call it in.

ASK THE CREW

1. Which lines run over this site, and what is above the route to the work?
2. Who is the spotter today, and what else are they doing?
3. What is the minimum approach distance we are working to?
4. If the boom touched that line right now, what would you do first?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
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SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE