

Power Lines and Mobile Cranes

Instructor Note: This has been added to the Tool Box talks because electric line companies get very upset when a crane (or dump truck bed or other piece of heavy equipment) gets close to or touches a power line. They also will notify Occupational Safety and Health, who will invariably pay your job site a visit looking at everything dealing with employee safety and health.

Introduction: It is not uncommon to work around power lines; however, the potential hazards to workers are enormous; workers just have to work safer.

Guide for Discussion

How to Avoid Electrocution

- Locate all power supplies. Besides this being the law, it's smart.
- Have the Power Company inform you of the voltage and arc distances.
- Shut off or insulate the power line(s) if possible.
- Never allow a piece of equipment to break the safety zone (the distance required to avoid electric arc.)

General Rules to Remember

- Designate a competent lead signal person.
- Communicate clearly with all members of the work crew.
- Have all crewmembers watch the operation.
- Be alert.
- Watch for non-alert crewmembers.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember: Whenever you are near a power line, be sure to minimize the risk by deenergizing or insulating the power source. Only then proceed with caution. At all times, try to avoid entering an arc zone. It is far better to be safe than sorry.

Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.