

A Safety Note from Your Cooperative

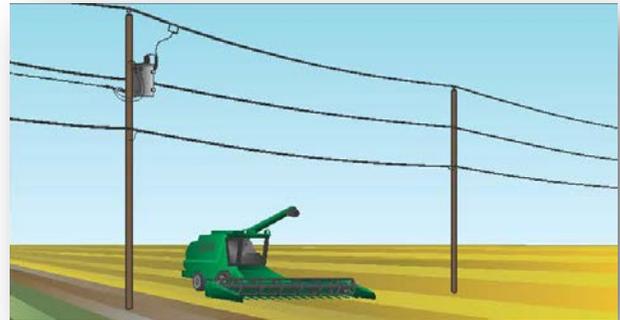


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Don't be THAT guy!

You now – THAT guy that just caused a power outage and your neighbor doesn't have power now. Unfortunately for you, it's the neighbor that tends to gossip a bit and it's only gotten worse now that she has learned about Facebook.

In all seriousness, making contact with a power line that is overhead or underground is serious and can be deadly. Several of these incidents occurred last year to farmers in our own state with tragic results. At our cooperative, we have had many incidents involving farm equipment and we don't want to see anyone get hurt. Even one incident is one too many.



So, how can you become THAT guy?

Making contact with Overhead Power Lines

- You decide to place the hay bales right under a line.
- You are moving your irrigation system and you put it right into the line.
- You turn in the field and hit the pole breaking it at the base.
- Oops, you just snagged the guy wire and down came the pole and lines.
- You planted trees right under the lines, the kind that are fast growing.

Making contact with Underground Power Lines

- You back the truck into the underground cabinet, opening it up and exposing the energized equipment.
- You piled material near the underground cabinet and now the crews cannot open it up to maintain it properly.
- You started to dig and, oops, you hit a line; you forgot to call 811 for a locate.

Just as we work to keep our coworkers safe through awareness and training, we want you to stay safe, too.

Do these actions to NOT be THAT guy!

- Power lines can sag; just because your equipment cleared it last year, it might not this year. Make sure to always keep 10 feet distance from any overhead power line. How can you tell? Use a spotter to watch the equipment being moved.
- Make this a daily habit -look overhead before beginning the day and notice where the power lines are located. Look for the underground cabinets, too. Point out these items to anyone else you are working with.
- Be extra cautious when moving equipment in windy conditions. Always better to lower the equipment before moving it.
- Always lower a grain auger when moving it from bin to bin.

- Build grain bins away from power lines to reduce the risk of grain augers coming into contact with the lines. This action also eliminates the chance of a storm blowing a power line onto a metal building which then becomes electrified.
- If you are planning to move a building or bring a new one onto your site, call the co-op to make sure the power lines can be safely moved and cleared.
- Report any lines that appear low or sagging.
- Always call 811 before doing any digging.
- Never assume a line or underground cabinet is safe to touch; we cannot tell if it is energized simply by looking at it. Again, call the co-op promptly.
- If your equipment gets in a power line, do not leave the equipment. Remain in the cab, as long as it is not on fire, and call the co-op right away. If you must leave, know how to leave the cab properly.
- Don't let anyone approach the cab of any equipment that has come in contact with a power line; keep them a safe distance away which is usually at least 40 feet.
- Always have an emergency plan in place. Teach all family members what to do in case of an emergency. Don't touch or move anyone who is in contact with electricity. You could be shocked. When calling 911 or your local emergency number, be sure to report an electric-contact accident.
- Call the co-op if you would like some stickers you can place on equipment as reminder to Look Up for Overhead Lines.

Back to our story with the neighbor - thank goodness she hasn't figured out that her phone can take pictures!



Operator of field cultivator knocked it off the base



Operator of equipment hit pole, snapping it in half but lines remained in the air