

Safety Bulletin

Overhead Wires

DTE Energy®



Detroit Edison



Look Up! Be Safe!

Building, farming, transportation – whatever the task that takes you out of doors to work, remember to look up!

Always be aware of the location of overhead power lines and make sure the equipment you are using has plenty of clearance. We recommend you stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines and the guy wires and utility poles that support them.

If your business involves crane operations, follow the MIOSHA clearance standards. Contact with power lines can be fatal!

Vehicle contact

What do you do if a raised dump truck box or boom has snagged an overhead power line?

If you can do it safely, try to lower the part of your equipment touching the line. If you can't, try to drive the vehicle out of the hazard. If this isn't possible, stay in the vehicle and wait for help. Call 911 and Detroit Edison, **1.800.477.4747**, to report the situation.

If you must leave the vehicle because of fire or other danger, remember that your body should never contact the ground and the metal vehicle at the same time.

Jump clear of the vehicle, then hop with feet together or shuffle away. Don't run or stride. Voltage is highest near the vehicle and decreases with distance. Hopping with feet together or shuffling prevents your body from becoming a conductor from an area of higher voltage to an area of lower voltage.

Tires are not insulators

Although rubber is not a good conductor of electricity, metal is. Your vehicle's road-worn tires are constructed of rubber and metal. Your body, which is 70 percent water, is an even better conductor of electricity.

If a power line is in contact with your vehicle, electricity will travel through the metal skin and tires into the ground. If you touch both the vehicle and the ground at the same time, electricity will take the path of least resistance and travel through your body to the ground.

Shock injuries

Act quickly, but keep yourself out of danger. Never touch a person who is being shocked. Immediately call 911 for medical help.