

Electrical Safety

At EnergyUnited, our highest priority is the safety of our employees, members and communities.

As a reflection of our commitment to safety, we provide helpful resources to highlight important guidelines for electrical safety.

BASIC RULES FOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Maintain a safe distance from all power lines. For your safety, we ask that you maintain a minimum distance of 20 feet (*that's about the length of a full-size pickup truck*) when there are power lines nearby.

While performing certain work activities near power lines, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require more than 20 feet of distance. For some work activities, OSHA may allow for closer distances. EnergyUnited asks that you contact us to discuss the work plan to ensure there will be sufficient distance to prevent a contact with our energized lines.

OSHA also requires that all electrical lines be considered energized until proven otherwise by the owner or the electric utility company.

Overhead:





- ❖ Overhead power lines – look up and live; know where the power lines are above you.

Energized electrical power lines near any construction or work activities present a hazard that could result in an electrical shock or electrocution. Adhere and follow all safety precautions to avoid injury or death.

Stay at least 20 feet away from any overhead power lines. No equipment or person should be within a 20-foot zone around any overhead power line. Crane operators must contact EnergyUnited to plan any project requiring the use of a crane.

Never consider any power line to be insulated. Unlike extension cords or wiring inside homes, utility wires do not have insulation. Most are bare metal. Any wires that appear to have insulation are not insulated. This is known as weather guard and does not provide any protection against shock.



 <p>Insulated house wire</p>	 <p>Insulated Extension Cord</p>	 <p>Bare Aluminum Wire</p>	 <p>Wire with Weather Guard</p>
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Underground:

- ❖ Underground – call 811 at least three working days before you dig; know where buried power lines are located.

Always call 811 to request underground locates for buried electrical lines. Buried lines can be present anywhere. Locating them provides better information on where lines may be buried. Do not dig by hand or with equipment before the lines have been located.

Request locates before digging; it is the law. OSHA regulations, (1926.651) require that prior to opening an excavation every reasonable effort must be made to determine whether underground installation will be encountered, and where such underground installations are located.

In North Carolina, before digging, call 811 or visit the 811 website: [NC811](http://NC811.com). Utility companies with underground facilities must be contacted and advised of proposed work before the start of actual excavation.



WHAT TO DO IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS:

<p>NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED LINE or anything that is in contact with the line. Electricity will take any path it can to ground. Touching a line or anything that is in contact with the line while you are standing on the ground will allow electricity to flow through you.</p>	<p>TURN OFF THE ELECTRIC FACILITY if you can. Low voltages can cause muscles to contract, which can make it impossible for victims to free themselves. Only de-energizing the line will allow for rescue efforts to commence.</p>
<p>DON'T PANIC. Stay calm and use good judgment and common sense. Evaluate the entire situation and make sure precautions are in place to protect everyone present.</p> <p>CALL FOR HELP. Call 911 for emergency medical and rescue assistance. They can contact EnergyUnited so the electricity can be turned off.</p>	<p>IF A VEHICLE IS INVOLVED and touching a power line, the occupants must remain in the vehicle until help arrives and the lines are de-energized. If the occupants must exit the vehicle for safety reasons, have them jump from the vehicle, not touching the vehicle, and land on both feet together. Keep their feet together and shuffle until they are far away from the vehicle. Do not allow anyone to touch any part of the line or vehicle.</p>
<p>DO NOT TOUCH a person or piece of equipment that is in contact with an electric line. The accident may not have de-energized the line. Additionally, electrical systems today have features that can automatically re-energize power lines. Don't assume anything.</p>	<p>DON'T FIGHT FIRE WITH WATER. Water is a good conductor of electricity. Therefore, you can be shocked. Wait until the electricity is turned off.</p>

RESPECT ELECTRICITY

- ❖ Electricity can burn, injure, or even kill people if it is not handled properly. Electricity is constantly seeking a path to the ground. If you contact an energized power line with a tool or any part of your body, this can create a path through your body to ground, resulting in serious injury or even death.

PLAN AHEAD

- ❖ The best approach to any job or activity is proper planning. Before beginning a project, make sure you have the proper safety equipment, and the information needed to do the job safely. Be sure the site is assessed and determined safe for your work activities. Notify EnergyUnited if there are overhead power lines, or buried underground electrical cables, in the vicinity which can create unsafe conditions.

BEFORE STARTING WORK

- ❖ Electrical contacts sometimes occur because someone was distracted or careless, decided to cut corners to save time, or money, or made an inaccurate assumption. Be observant. Look around for the nearest source of electrical energy. If you know there is electrical service in the area but there are no overhead lines or poles, you may be working in an area with underground electric cables. If you have work to do in the vicinity of an EnergyUnited power facility, call us. We'll be glad to help you identify potential hazards at the job site and provide guidelines to prevent an electrical contact.

Let's work together to prevent accidents and electrical contacts.



*This safety message is for general awareness and educational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for the advice of qualified professionals or safety experts. Always assume that electric power lines and systems are energized and hazardous. Before handling or interacting with electric power lines or systems, you should consult qualified professionals or safety experts to ensure your safety. Extreme caution should always be exercised when working near or with electrical power lines and systems. Failure to follow established safety protocols can result in severe injury, property damage, or loss of life. Always prioritize your safety and the safety of others at all times. EnergyUnited assumes no responsibility or liability for any outcomes resulting from the use or misuse of the information provided.