



## Safety Bulletin

### Know Safety

#### Topic: Power Lines

Downed electrical power lines can be the source of electrical shock while working at the mine or on your personal time. Never go near a downed or fallen electrical power line. Always assume it is energized. Touching the line could be fatal. Notify the mine electrician or contact the company providing the electricity.

If you ever find somebody in contact with a downed live power line, don't try to rescue them yourself. If the downed power line comes into contact with a rail or fence, keep away. The power line could energize the rail or fence, creating a hazard along the entire surface.

Electricity can spread outward through the ground in a circular shape from the point of contact. As you move away from the center large differences in voltages can be created. Never drive over downed power lines. Although they may not be energized, they can become entangled in your piece of equipment. **If contact is made with an energized power line while you are on or in a piece of equipment or vehicle, remain calm, and do not get out unless it is on fire. Call for help.** If you must exit the equipment because of fire or other safety reasons, do your best to jump completely clear making sure you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle away by dragging your feet to minimize the path of the electric current and avoid electric shock. If one part of your body touches a high-voltage zone while another part of your body touches a low-voltage zone, you will become a conductor for electricity.

#### Best Practices

- Consider any overhead wire to be energized unless and until the person owning the line or the utility authorities verify that the line is not energized.
- Study the work site each time you move equipment, especially when operating equipment in areas used for storage, stockpiling, and look for any areas of low power line clearance.
- If a truck contacts power lines, lower the bed to break the contact if possible.
- If any vehicle contacts power lines, stay in the vehicle, until it can be verified that the power is de-energized. Even when it appears that power is off, a utility company power line circuit will normally close three times to clear a fault.
- If power lines are not de-energized, operate cranes in the area only if a safe minimum clearance is maintained as follows:

**At least 10 feet for lines rated 50 Kilovolts or below**

**At least 10 feet plus .4 inch for each Kilovolt above 50 Kilovolts; or maintain twice the length of the line insulator (but never less than 10 feet)**