



## TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

## WORK ACTIVITY

Farm equipment like augers, hoisted truck boxes and large cultivators in transport position are a few examples of farm equipment that could come into contact with power lines if you are not careful. Accidental contact with power lines can result in equipment damage, fire and even injury or death.

## BACKGROUND

Farms will sometimes have power lines on poles or towers crossing farmyards and fields. Most of the time, there are distribution lines supplying electricity to the farm house and site. In some cases, there are also buried power lines on the farm. Become familiar with the power lines on our farm.

## Key Points

**WE HAVE INTEGRATED SAFETY STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICES FOR OPERATING ALL EQUIPMENT ON OUR FARM.** If you don't remember them, review them—you can find them:

## TO HELP YOU FARM SAFELY NEAR POWER LINES, THERE ARE IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO OBSERVE NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

- Most overhead power lines have no protective insulation. Any physical or equipment contact with them could be dangerous.
- Non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, straw and hay, are capable of conducting electricity, depending on moisture content and surface contamination.

- Electricity always seeks the path of least resistance to the ground.
- You can be electrocuted by simply coming too close to a power line. Electricity can arc or “jump” between a wire and a conducting object, such as a ladder or a truck.
- When electricity flows into the ground, it can electrocute anyone who comes close. Stay at least 10 metres away from fallen wires. Also, if you see equipment or a person in contact with a power line, be aware that the ground may be energized and be dangerous to bystanders.

## TO PREVENT INJURIES, REMEMBER:

- Be Aware. Locate overhead power lines before starting work.
- Lower large equipment like grain augers, air seeders and front end loaders before moving them.
- Take another route if you are moving large equipment and don't have enough clearance.

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## CAUTION

Review your work practices near power lines. Ask yourself: could you be injured or killed while doing a similar task around your farm?

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

## MORE RESOURCES

Contact your local power utility for more information about the power lines on your farm.

- Make sure you have enough clearance while working around power poles in the field. If you don't have enough clearance, you could pull down a power pole.

## TASKS THAT COULD PUT YOU IN HARM'S WAY NEAR POWER LINES INCLUDE:

1. Cutting down trees and tree limbs too close to power lines.
2. Raising or carrying ladders or other long tools near power lines.
3. Raising front-end loaders and moving other large equipment (including those with radio antennas) near power lines.

What are some other examples of tasks that could put you in harm's way near overhead power lines?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT TO DO IF FARM EQUIPMENT CONTACTS A POWER LINE?

Prevention is the most important part of remaining safe around power lines. But if you come into contact with a power line, there are some critical things to remember:

- If the equipment you are operating gets hung up on a power line, do NOT get off of the machinery unless you are in immediate danger.
- If you must leave the machinery, jump about a half metre away from the equipment and land with feet together and arms close to the body. Keep your feet touching each other and shuffle 10 metres away from the machinery or the fallen wire. **DO NOT TOUCH THE MACHINE FOR ANY REASON.**
- Contact a supervisor immediately and contact our power utility to disconnect the line.

## UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

If you need to dig for any reason, inform a supervisor before doing so. We will contact our power utility to mark any underground power lines.

## COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

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Operation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Canada FarmSafe  
Sécurité Ferme Canada

This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit [casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan](http://casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan), or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.

This Toolbox Talk was funded by exclusive corporate sponsor Dupont Pioneer. CASA is funded in part by *Growing Forward 2*, a federal, provincial and territorial initiative, with support from the agricultural and corporate sectors.