

## Avoid Dangerous Scenarios

- Always be on the lookout for fallen or sagging wires, especially after storms.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Never approach or touch any wire with your hand or any other object, under any circumstance. If you notice a damaged facility, notify your electrical service provider and keep everyone at least 10 metres away from the area.
- Never stack hay or pile grain near power lines. These can be inviting for kids who may climb too near a power line.
- Use care when doing field work around power poles and guy wires. Watch for broken or dislodged guy wires. Report broken or damaged guy wires to your electrical service provider immediately.
- Always lower high equipment like augers and grain boxes before moving them.
- Never place bulk fuel tanks or granaries near power lines.
- Know the height of any new equipment you purchase. Current regulations state that anything higher than 4.15 metres (13.6 feet), in height that will be travelling down a highway or public road, requires a permit from Alberta Transportation.
- Never spray water hoses or irrigation pivots at power lines.
- Under no circumstances should anyone but trained power line utility staff attempt to **lift or measure** power lines.
- When using machinery to dig, a clearance distance of one metre (3.2 feet) has to be maintained from any underground electrical cable. If you must work closer, contact your electrical service provider.
- Be careful when pruning - a wire could be hiding in a tree.

## Your Responsibilities

Your move may affect other utilities. You're responsible for contacting all affected utilities to ensure a safe move. FortisAlberta can help coordinate this.

### Other things to consider for high-load moves

We strive to meet your move date. Please keep in mind an unplanned power outage, bad weather or operational requirements may require us to delay our response for your move request.

Depending on the move, a possible electrical outage and the use of additional equipment and labour may be required.

The taller the equipment, the more resources are needed to move it. This could increase the cost and planning time. Please remove any attachments that will increase the equipment's height until after the move is complete.



### If your vehicle comes in contact with power lines, follow these steps to keep safe:

- If possible, move the vehicle/machinery away to break contact with the power line (minimum 10 metres away).
- If the vehicle/machinery cannot be moved, stay inside until emergency crews arrive. If anyone approaches the vehicle/machinery, open the window and call out. Tell them to keep away at least 10 metres and to call 9-1-1 for help.
- If there is a fire and you must leave the vehicle/machinery, jump out with your feet together. Never touch the ground and the vehicle/machinery at the same time. Move away slowly by shuffling and keeping both feet close together, or by hopping away slowly. Do this until you are at least 10 metres away from the vehicle/machinery.

# Agriculture Industry Power Line Safety



For electrical emergencies,  
call us at **310-WIRE** (9473)  
or 1-855-333-9473

**FORTIS**  
**ALBERTA**  
www.fortisalberta.com

# Contact with power lines can kill you

Every year, farmers and ranchers sometimes put themselves at risk of serious injury or death by contacting power lines. FortisAlberta wants to educate farmers and ranchers about electrical hazards of both overhead and underground power lines. These hazards can be anywhere – not just on major roads and highways. They could be in your yard, next to roads or in the fields themselves.

Farm equipment such as air seeders, grain augers, cultivators and combines have gotten bigger, which makes knowing clearances even more important. If you are required to move large equipment, plan your route. If you suspect your load will interfere with power lines, call FortisAlberta before proceeding at **310-WIRE (9473) or 1-855-333-9473**.

Power lines are constructed according to Alberta Electric Utility Code Standards. The overhead power lines and communication lines are installed and maintained to permit the safe movement of equipment, buildings or objects.

There are two different approach distances to power lines that must be understood and maintained by the farming and ranching community:

1. distances while equipment is moving;
2. distances while equipment is parked and operating near a power line.



The following chart highlights safe distances while passing under power and communication lines. The heights shown reflect the maximum height equipment, buildings or objects can be.

## Safe distances while passing under power lines

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 3.6 metres (11.8 feet) | areas normally accessible to pedestrians only                   |
| 4.1 metres (13.5 feet) | driveways to residences or residential garages                  |
| 4.2 metres (13.7 feet) | areas where agricultural equipment is normally used             |
| 4.2 metres (13.7 feet) | farm or yard entrances or farm field access roads               |
| 4.3 metres (14.1 feet) | right of way of underground pipelines                           |
| 4.8 metres (15.7 feet) | lanes, alleys or entrances to commercial or industrial premises |
| 5.3 metres (17.3 feet) | roads and highways  |
| 5.3 metres (17.3 feet) | crossing oilfield lease roads                                   |

If your equipment, buildings or objects exceed these heights in the above chart, you must contact your electrical service provider before proceeding.

If you are planning to move a load down a highway or road and it is higher than 4.15 metres, a permit is required from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. For more information about high-load height permit requirements contact:

**[www.travis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.travis.gov.ab.ca)**  
or by calling  
**1-800-662-7138**

## Parked and operating equipment

When equipment like augers are parked and operating, you must maintain a distance of seven metres (23 feet) from the nearest overhead power line. This distance may be revised, but only after your electrical service provider has been contacted to confirm the voltage of the power line.



## Underground excavation

Underground excavation accounts for more than 20 per cent of power line contacts.

When doing any form of excavating, plan your work and ask yourself, "Where's the Line?" This includes digging or driving posts into the ground.

As your first step, hire at least two working days notice and will locate and mark power lines free of charge. These markings are valid for 14 days. You can also visit their website at:

**[www.alberta1call.com](http://www.alberta1call.com)**



**WHERE'S THE LINE?**  
POWER LINE SAFETY

[wherestheline.ca](http://wherestheline.ca)

Call us at **310-WIRE (9473)**  
or **1-855-333-WIRE (9473)**  
for help moving a load near power lines

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**  
Call Toll-Free 1-800-242-3447