SAFETY BULLETIN #5

May 13, 2024

Overhead Utility Lines

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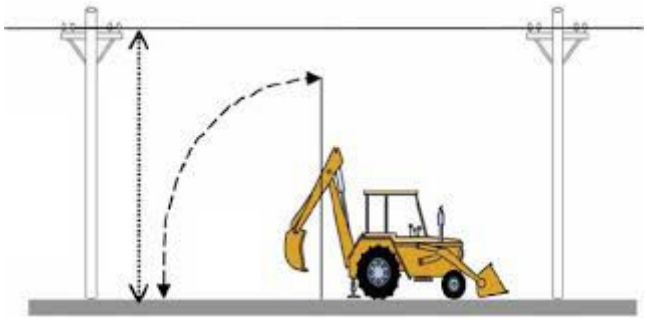


- ★ Overhead utility lines are abundant across Arkansas. These lines often carry electricity, phone, and internet services.
- ★ Should a team member or piece of equipment make contact with power lines, the result can become serious and even life threatening.

Ways to protect yourself and team members

- ★ Upon mobilization, inspect your job site and identify overhead utilities. Make note of overhead utilities and where these utilities go underground. Re-evaluate each week or when work shifts further down the site. List these on the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA).
- ★ When working around power lines, stay a minimum of 10’ from them. Always use a spotter to communicate with equipment operators.
- ★ Post warning signs, flags, or caution tape where overhead utilities cross the areas of work.
- ★ Trees conduct electricity. Use extra caution when removing or trimming trees around overhead power lines.
- ★ When using cranes, boom trucks, dump trucks, concrete pump, or other extending piece of equipment, mark a 360* area to ensure a safe working zone.
- ★ Never allow a dump truck to move forward or backward with a raised bed when power lines are nearby.
- ★ Never touch or approach fallen power lines and never touch or grab another person who is receiving an electrical shock. A person who tries to do so can become part of the electric circuit too.
- ★ Downed wires can energize other nearby objects such as fences, water pipes, bushes, trees, buildings, telephone, CATV, and fiber optic cables. Downed wires can also energize windblown objects such as canopies, aluminum roofs, siding, and sheds tossed during storms.
- ★ Should equipment or a vehicle contact a power line, call 911 and alert the local utility company.
    - ○ If no one is in danger from fire or power line strikes, move equipment away from the power line, if possible. If the equipment cannot be moved, stay put until the power line is de-energized.
    - ○ If in danger from fire or power line strikes, jump out of the vehicle so that <u>both feet leave at the same time</u> **and** <u>land on the ground at the same time</u>. **Do not** touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. **Do not** walk away, but shuffle so that both feet rub against each other and also remain touching the ground as they move at least 10 feet away from the power source.

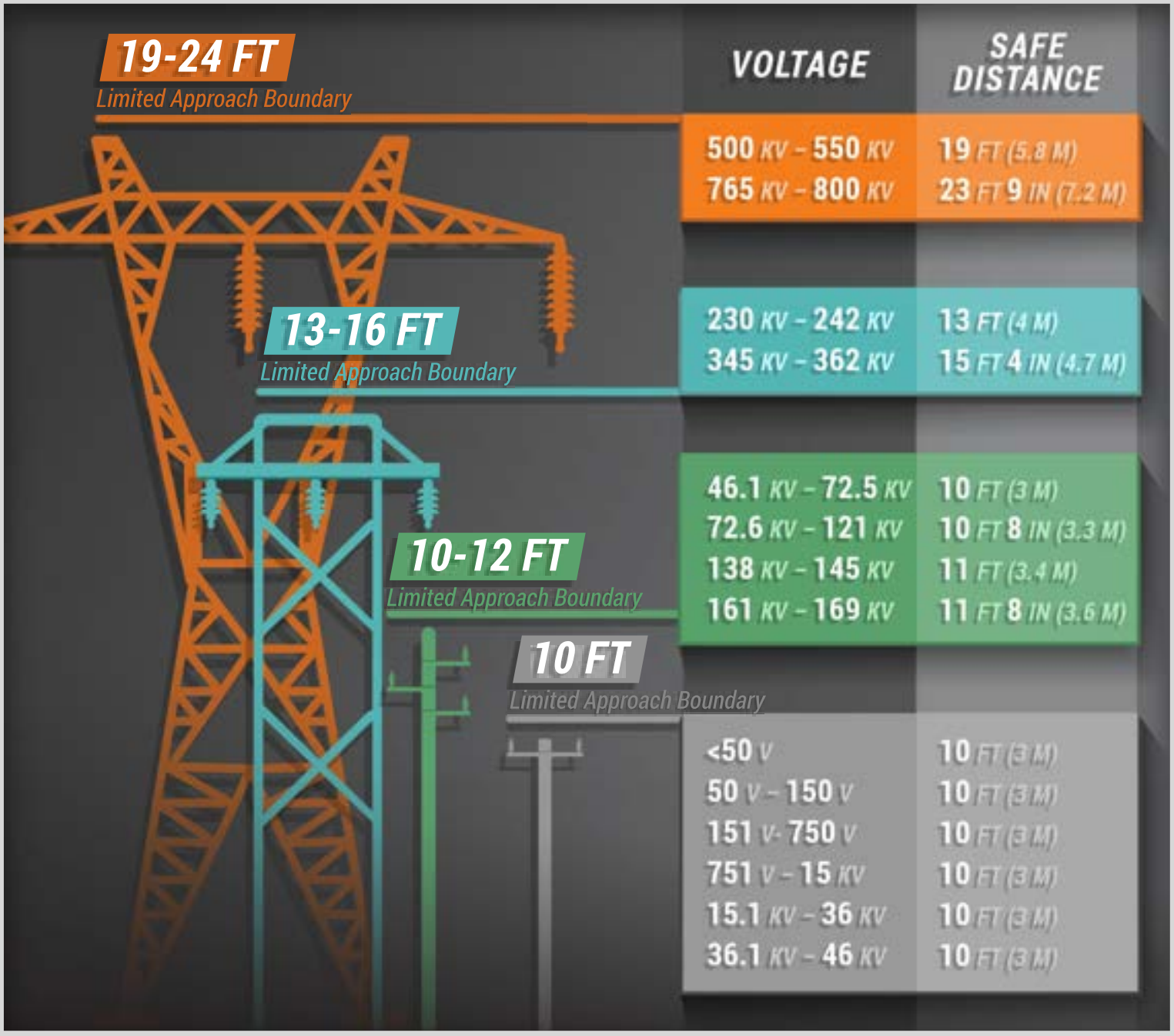
Discussion Point:

- ★ Review the size chart below to identify safe distances from overhead power lines at your job sites.

ALWAYS LOOK UP ALWAYS

It's no surprise that a construction job site can be an incredibly dangerous workplace. With so many safety protocols and procedures to follow, it can seem overwhelming. But the truth is, most accidents involving electricity, are caused by non-electrical workers inadvertently contacting power lines.

KEEP THE FOLLOWING DISTANCE FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES:



VOLTAGE	SAFE DISTANCE
500 KV - 550 KV	19 FT (5.8 M)
765 KV - 800 KV	23 FT 9 IN (7.2 M)
230 KV - 242 KV	13 FT (4 M)
345 KV - 362 KV	15 FT 4 IN (4.7 M)
46.1 KV - 72.5 KV	10 FT (3 M)
72.6 KV - 121 KV	10 FT 8 IN (3.3 M)
138 KV - 145 KV	11 FT (3.4 M)
161 KV - 169 KV	11 FT 8 IN (3.6 M)
<50 V	10 FT (3 M)
50 V - 150 V	10 FT (3 M)
151 V - 750 V	10 FT (3 M)
751 V - 15 KV	10 FT (3 M)
15.1 KV - 36 KV	10 FT (3 M)
36.1 KV - 46 KV	10 FT (3 M)

SO WHEN YOU ARE ON THE JOB SITE REMEMBER TO ALWAYS LOOK UP. ALWAYS.
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND YOU.

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