

How Shock Happens

Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wood, water - or your body, which is 70 percent water. Power lines are not insulated. So if you are grounded and you touch equipment that is in contact with a power line, electricity will instantly pass through you, causing a harmful or fatal shock. Stay at least 10 feet away from energized lines!

For Contractors

Plan ahead when working around overhead and underground power lines. Did you know that electrocution is one of the top five causes of workplace deaths in the U.S.? If you forget about safety precautions or don't get the information you need before you begin a project, you or some one you work with could die. It only takes one mistake. Everyone who works near power lines is at risk.

Before You Start Work: Plan Ahead

Before work begins, survey the job site carefully and anticipate potential safety problems with overhead and underground power lines. Consider all power lines to be energized, no matter what they look like. Note a hazard zone around power lines and stay outside of it. Have lines temporarily de-energized, if possible.

Call Seattle City Light at (206) 684-3000 to arrange any necessary de-energizing or relocation of power lines. Report any activities that could damage power poles to your local utility. This might include activities such as excavations, construction, tree-trimming or other outdoor work near utility lines.

Remind workers about overhead and underground power line safety. Continually warn onlookers and others about nearby power lines and other hazards.

Seattle City Light is a publicly owned utility dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering low cost, reliable power in an environmentally responsible and safe way. We are committed to delivering the best customer service experience of any utility in the nation.

Greg Nickels, Mayor

Jorge Carrasco, Superintendent



Seattle City Light

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Working Safely Near Overhead & Underground Power Lines

For Contractors and Residential Customers



 **Seattle City Light**



Keep Your Distance

Operating a Boom or Crane

Always maintain all clearances mandated by the Washington Administrative Codes.

Working With Poles, Ladders or Antennas

Keep poles, ladders or antennas from reaching or falling into power lines.

Working on the Ground

Stand clear of equipment and loads, which will instantly conduct electricity if they hit a power line. If you're guiding a load, be aware of the location of the crane boom and power lines. Avoid touching equipment or loads near power lines. If equipment hits a line, workers standing on the ground are in the greatest danger of shock.

If You Hit a Power Line

- If you're in the equipment, stay there.
- Have someone call Seattle City Light immediately to shut off the power.
- Warn everyone away from the load, equipment, and anything in contact with the equipment. Any one of these could be conducting a deadly amount of electricity.
- If you must get out of the equipment because of fire or other danger, jump free of the equipment rather than stepping off of it. Never touch a grounded surface and equipment that's contacting a power line at the same time.
- If your vehicle contacts a power line, stay inside until rescue workers de-energize the line.

For Residents

- **Assume all power lines are energized, including those on the ground.**
- Never get within 10 feet of an energized power line, including anything you're holding such as a rake.
- Never touch or approach a downed wire or anything in contact with one.
- Stay away from electrical facilities such as poles, transformers and substations.
- Teach your children never to climb trees or fly kites or any other object near a power line and don't build tree houses in the vicinity of power lines.
- Do not remove items caught in power lines (such as a kite).
- Keep trees in your yard trimmed so they can't fall or blow into power lines.
Schedule a temporary disconnect at least one week in advance if you plan yard work or home repairs within 10 feet of power lines (see phone numbers to the right).

If a Power Line Falls on Your Car

Stay inside if possible, call 911 and wait for help. If you must get out, avoid touching the car and the ground at the same time. Jump out of the car.

Important Phone Numbers

After-hours electrical emergencies: **(206) 706-0051**

Power Outage Hotline: **(206) 684-7400**

Life-sustaining equipment: customer certification: **(206) 684-3020**

Power line clearance/tree trimming: **(206) 386-1663**

To schedule a temporary disconnect, call one of the following numbers:

If you live north of Denny Way: **(206) 615-0600**

If you live south of Denny Way: **(206) 386-4200**

Streetlight problems: **(206) 684-7056**

Customer Service: **(206) 684-3000**

TTY Line for hearing/speech impaired: **(206) 233-7241**

Out-of-area calls: **(800) 862-1181**

Before-you-dig utility locator service: **(800) 424-5555**

Residential conservation Help Line: **(206) 684-3800**

For more information on power line clearance, contact Seattle City Light Vegetation Management at **(206) 386-1733** or www.seattle.gov/light/neighborhoods/nh4_trtr.htm