

1974

## EC74-718 Caution! Look Up! Power Lines may be Overhead

Rollin D. Schnieder

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# CAUTION

## LOOK UP!

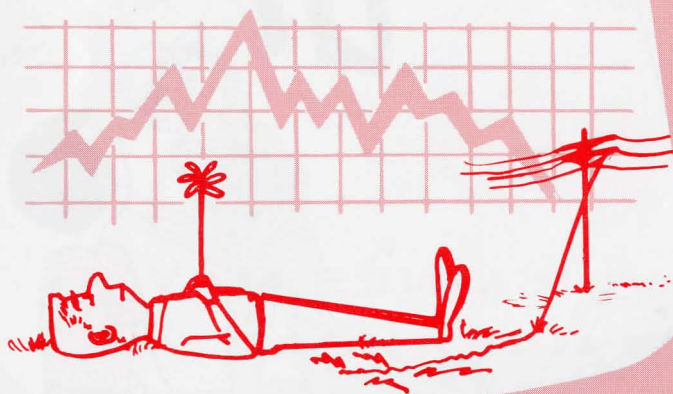
POWER LINES MAY  
BE OVERHEAD



Extension Service  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the  
U.S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics  
J. L. Adams, Director

Accidents are  
caused by carelessness

- Be careful....
- Avoid accidents...
- Don't be a Statistic..



By Rollin D. Schnieder  
Extension Specialist, Safety



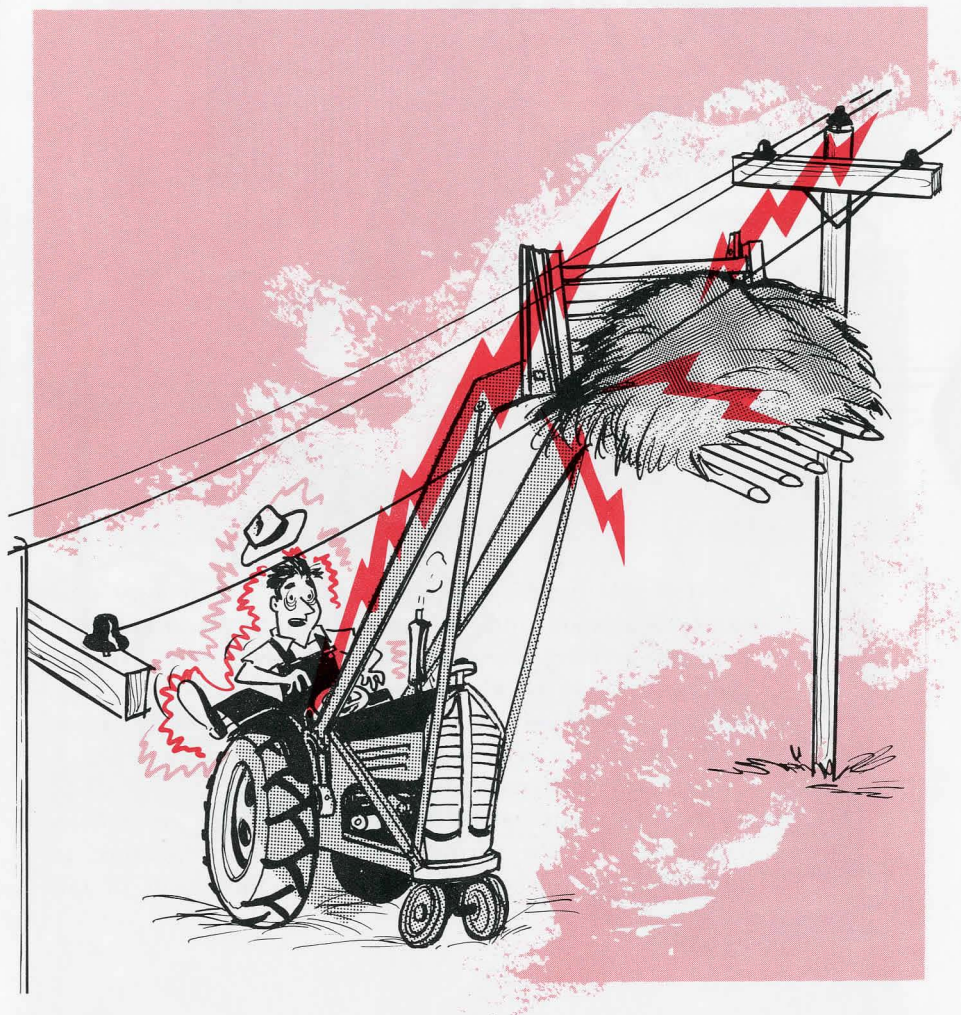
Flying a kite near electric wires is dangerous. When flying a kite, always make sure the kite string is dry. If you use wet string, a wire, or a string with wire in it, you are asking for trouble. Don't try to free a kite from high voltage wires if it gets tangled up in them. Remember, Ben Franklin has already discovered electricity by the use of a kite. Don't attempt to discover it in the same way.



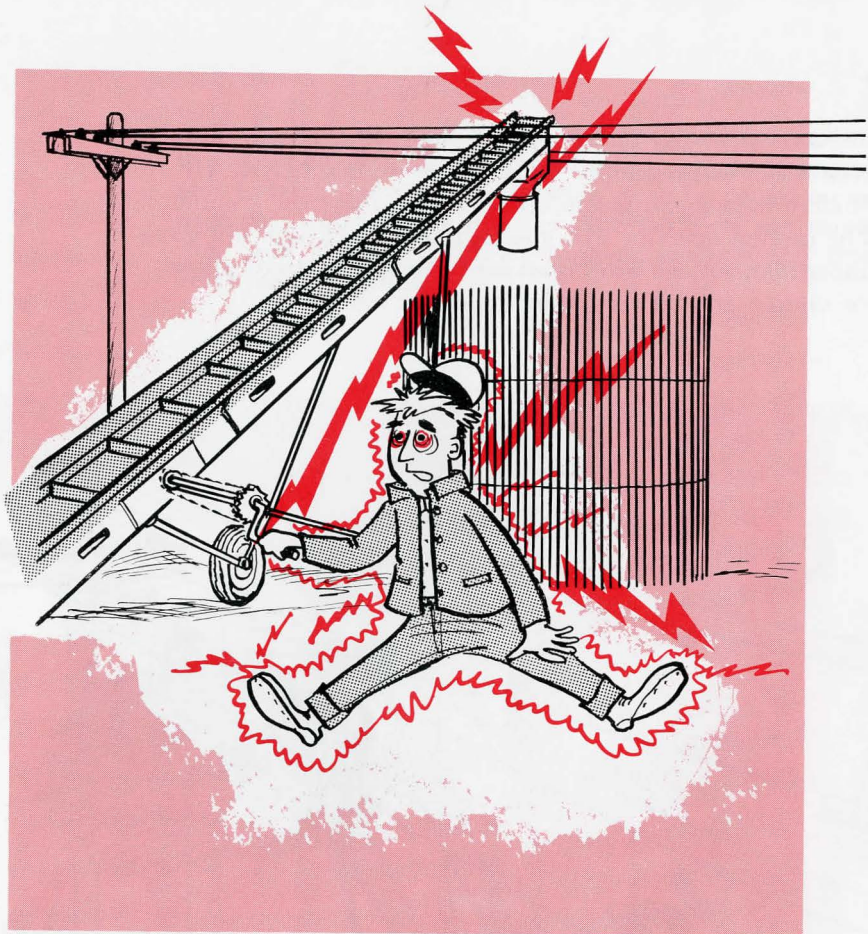
Irrigation pipe need not touch an overhead power line to kill the handler. A workman may lift a light irrigation pipe to be moved to a new location or to be placed on an irrigation trailer. If he lifts the pipe too high and comes close to or in contact with an overhead power supply line, death usually results.



Never stack hay under a power line. Many persons have been electrocuted simply because they didn't LOOK UP. Modern haying equipment operates high above the ground. The careless operator who guesses that his machine will go under high voltage wires is asking for trouble. Always allow for uneven ground and bouncing of the machine.

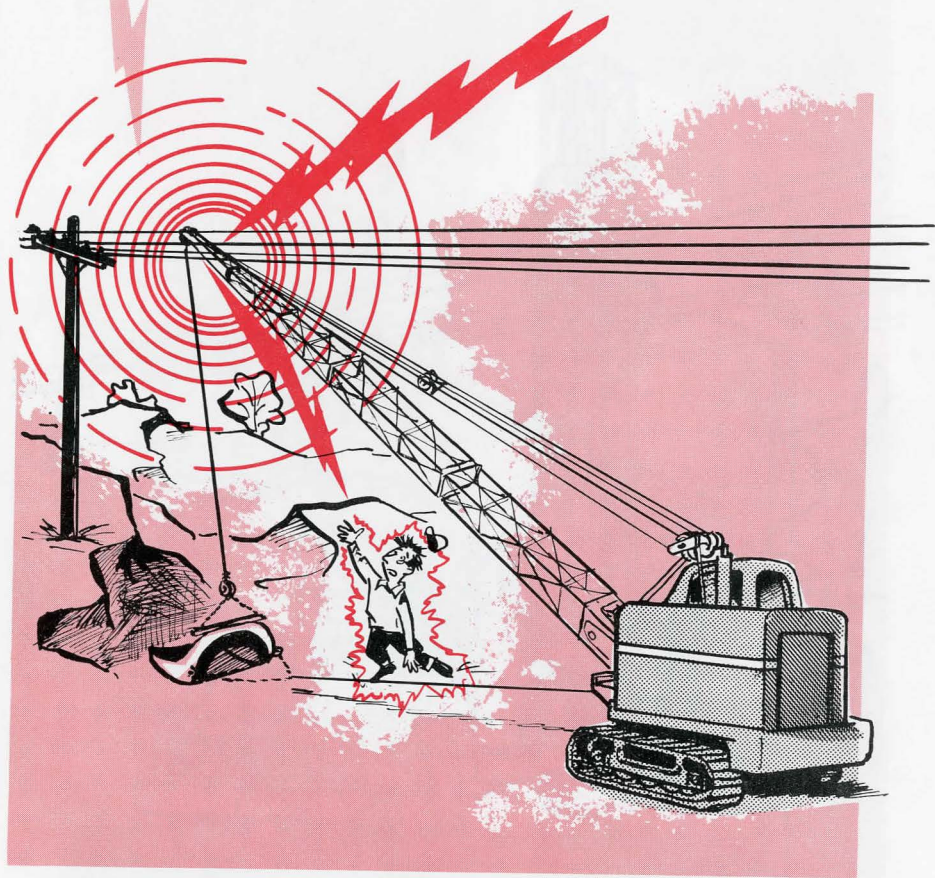






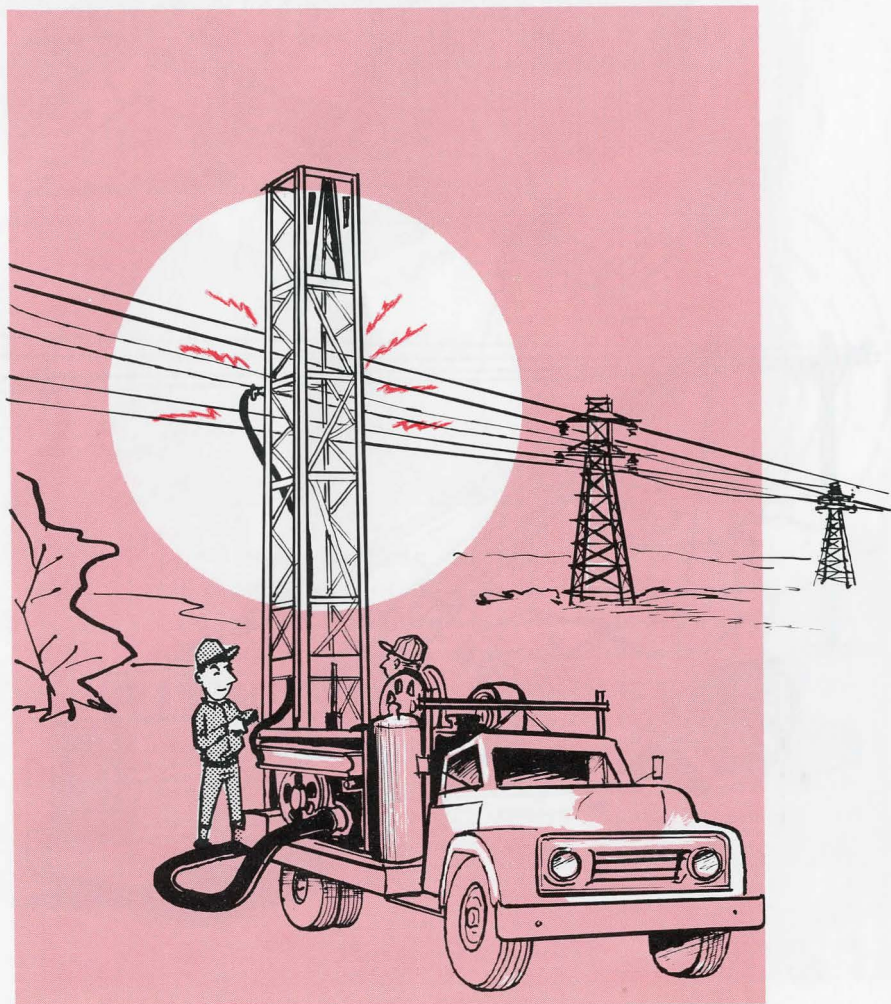
Materials handling equipment that is carelessly used can cause serious injury or death. Elevators used to fill corn cribs can accidentally touch overhead power wires. Anyone coming in contact with the elevator could be electrocuted. Several persons may be electrocuted, since more than one person usually is needed to place the elevator in position. Other materials handling equipment such as auger wagons, trucks with spouts on them, and mixing units are equally dangerous. A farm wiring system should be planned to allow at least one passageway for the movement of tall equipment.

Cranes and booms coming in contact with power lines have caused many deaths in Nebraska. Crane operators should be warned to stay away from overhead power lines. In many cases, the operator may not be injured severely; however, workmen standing on the ground who come near or touch the machine are usually the ones who are injured or killed. Safety devices are available for booms or cranes. They will insulate the machine from the high voltage wires in case electrical contact is made.

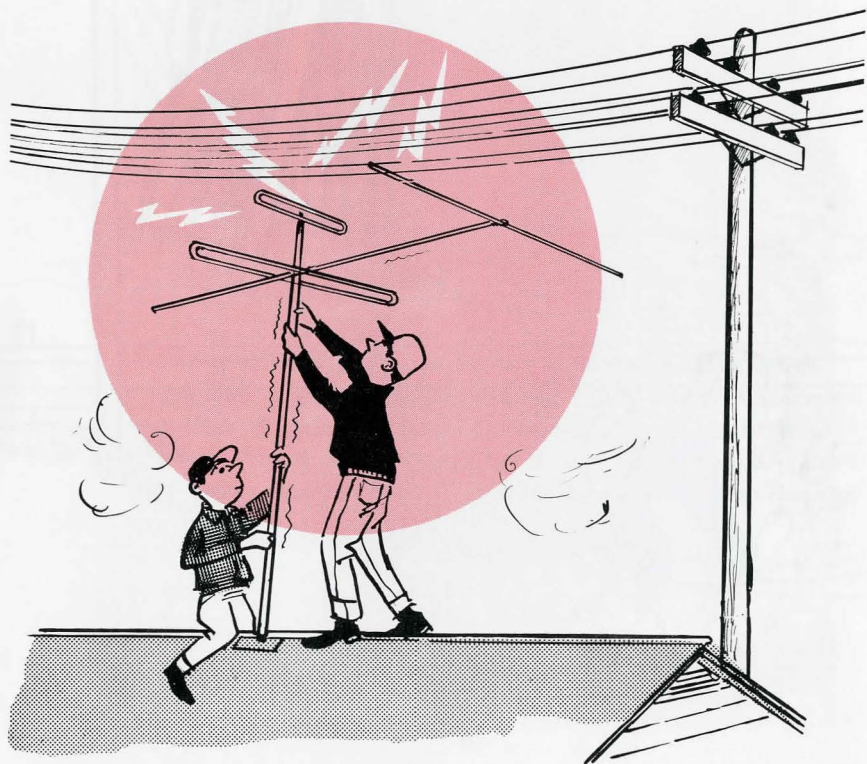




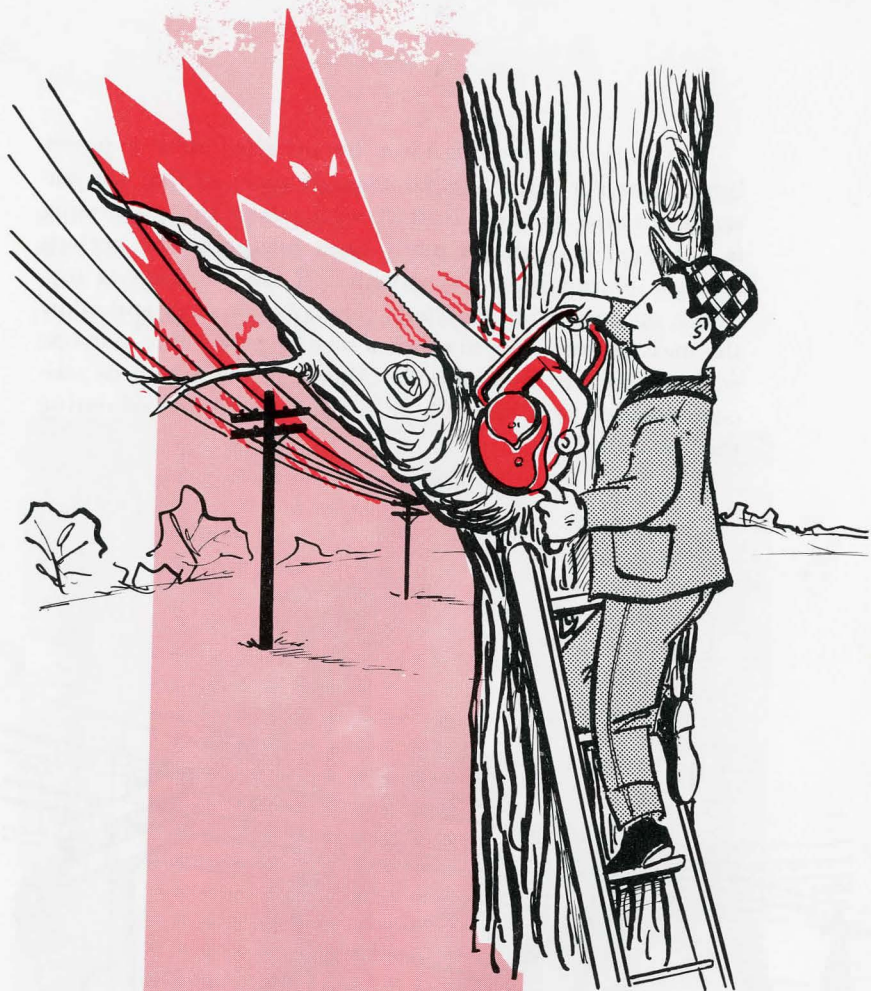
Well drilling rigs operated close to power lines cause many deaths in Nebraska. Never let the equipment come near these wires. Remember, it's the worker on the ground who usually is hurt. Be sure that the machine is out of reach of power lines when you are repairing and cleaning it.



TV antennas should never be installed near a power line. Make sure they are far enough away so that the antennas cannot come in contact with power lines. Guessing is not good enough. In many cases inexperienced persons attempt to repair a TV antenna. If the antenna is top-heavy, or if the wind is strong, it may break away and allow the mast or guy wires to touch a nearby power line. Anyone working on the antenna or holding a guy wire will be seriously injured or killed. There is also a possibility of setting the house on fire.



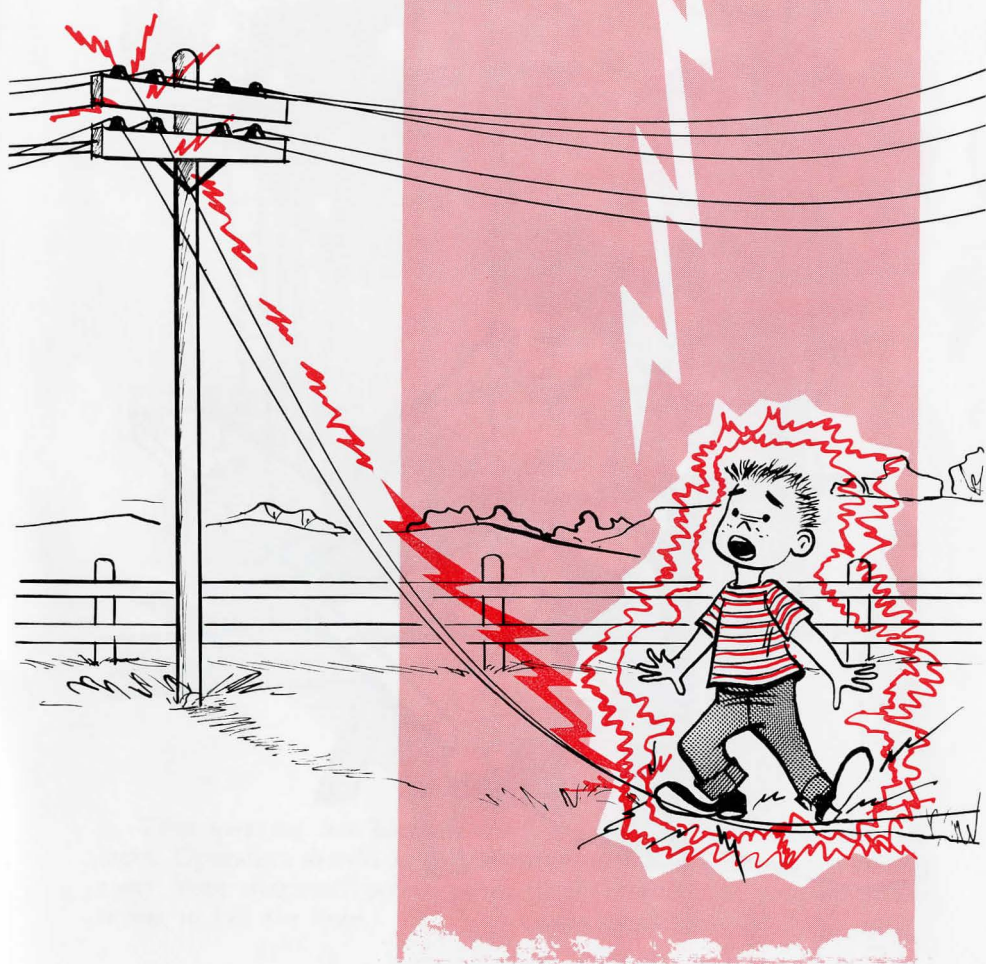




Pruning trees can be a dangerous job if electric power lines are close. A limb falling against a power line can cause death to anyone in contact with the limb. The falling limb also could cause the power line to break. Notify power companies in advance of pruning if these hazards exist.

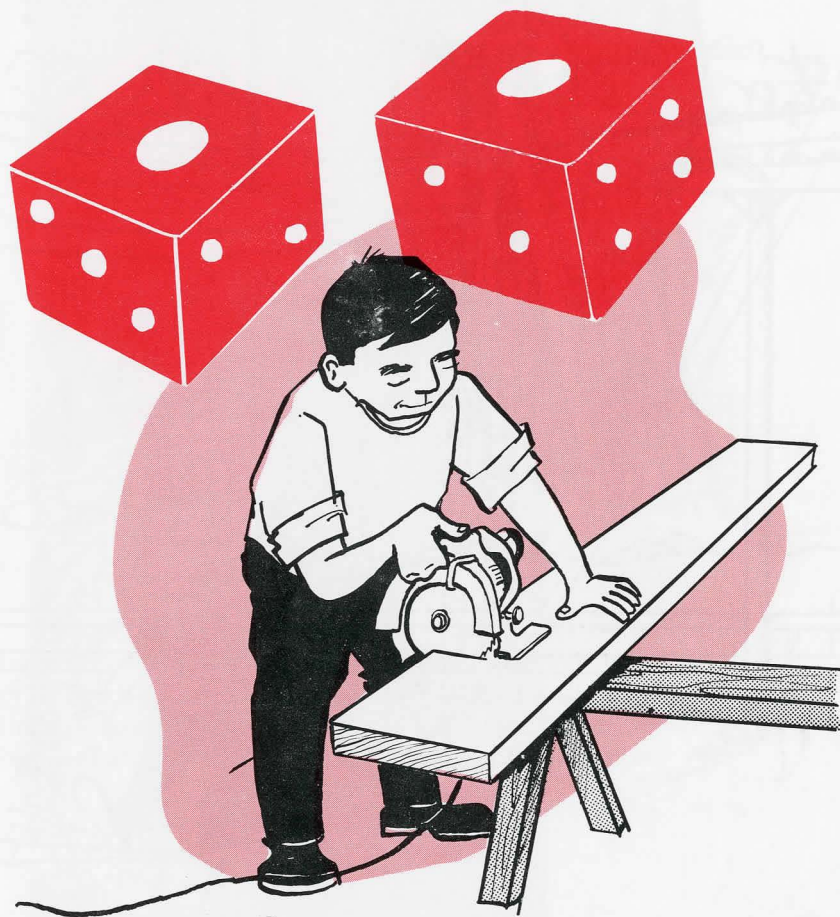


Stay away from fallen overhead wires. Anyone who touches them may be killed.

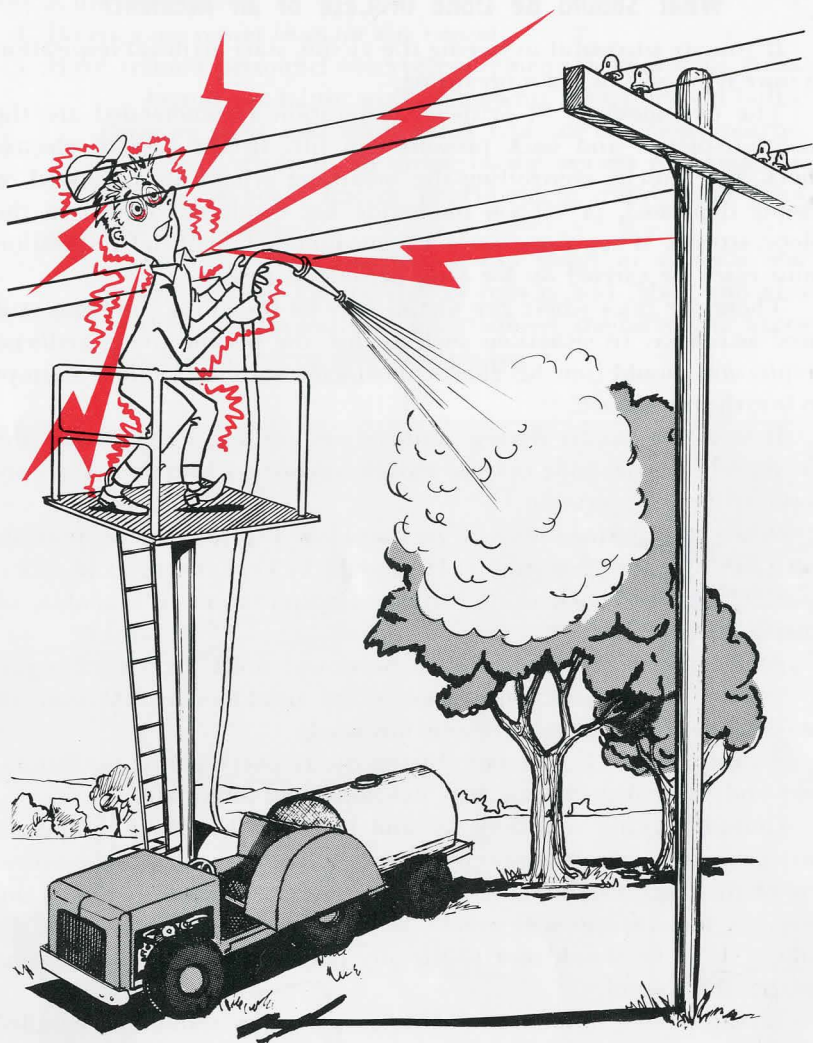


Never touch a person who is in contact with an electric power source. Push or pull him away with a dry stick. Do not use one that contains sap, since it may be a conductor of electricity. A dry rope also may be used. Make sure the rescuer is standing on dry ground. Attempt this rescue only if you are willing to accept grave risk of your life.

Don't figure on Lady Luck to watch over the safety of you and your co-workers. It is up to you to realize that dangers exist around high voltage electrical equipment. Usually it is impossible to remove these dangers. You can, however, accept the fact that hazards do exist. Use good judgment and learn to live with these hazards.







Tree spraying has become very essential for most cities and villages. Operators should keep the spray mist and passenger platform away from overhead power poles. Don't electrocute yourself while trying to kill the bugs.



## **What Should Be Done in Case of an Accident?**

If you are successful in freeing the victim, start artificial respiration at once if the victim is not breathing.

The two methods of artificial respiration recommended are the mouth-to-mouth and back pressure-arm lift. In the case of electric shock, the muscles controlling the breathing system are paralyzed or deeply depressed, or carbon monoxide has displaced oxygen in the blood stream. When these cases are encountered, artificial respiration must often be carried on for long periods of time.

There are cases where the victim may be breathing, but may still need assistance. In situations such as this, the person giving artificial respiration should time his efforts to coincide with the victim's attempt to breathe for himself.

If vomiting occurs during artificial respiration, quickly turn the victim on his side, wipe out the mouth, reposition him and then continue artificial respiration.

When the victim is revived, he should be kept as quiet as possible until he is breathing regularly. He should be kept covered and otherwise treated for shock until suitable transportation is available, or until a physician arrives.

Artificial respiration should be continued until the victim begins to breathe for himself, until a physician pronounces him dead, or until he appears to be dead beyond any doubt.

A doctor's care is necessary during the recovery period, as respiratory and other disturbances may develop as an aftermath.

Cranes, drilling rigs, derricks, and materials handling equipment may come in contact with overhead power lines. If possible, the operator of the machine should break contact with the line. If this is impossible, the operator will usually be safe if he stays in the cab. If he jumps clear, he should not touch any part of the machine once he reaches the ground.

Elevators, TV antennas, and irrigation pipes should be handled in such a way as to keep them away from power lines. Wind, conditions of the ground, and direction of movement should be considered when moving tall equipment.

A few simple procedures should be followed when moving tall equipment around overhead lines:

1. Plan and inspect the route you will travel. Know the height of your equipment and all power lines.
2. Notify the power company of your plans. They will cooperate with you if possible in providing safe transportation.

3. Secure all swinging parts before moving. Consider the possibility of uneven ground.
4. Do not raise power lines for any reason.
5. Have trained personnel observe equipment in hazardous areas.

Acts of vandalism such as breaking insulators and bulbs, defacing signs, and many other types of malicious destruction, may result in an arrest to the person inflicting the damage. A heavy fine or imprisonment could result from this type of activity.

Such malicious destruction can result in a loss to the power supplier for the cost of repairs and labor, and also to their employees, who must subject themselves to extra dangers while repairing the damage.

