

## **POWER LINE SAFETY AWARENESS**

Power lines account for the largest share of electrocution fatalities in the construction industry.

Considering the work electricians do, this may be hard to believe, but in fact about 2 of every 3 electrocutions involve non-electrical workers. Underlying contributing factors often include lack of awareness, lack of understanding, and/or lack of necessary safety precautions & training.

As an entry level worker in the steel and metal building industry:

## It is important that you understand:

- These lines carry lethal voltages.
- Electricity can arc from the lines to a grounded object. So, contact with the lines is not necessary.
- Arcing distance will increase with line voltage, weather (esp. wet/humid), and quality of ground.
- It's not just the top lines (primaries) that are dangerous. Any line coming into or out of a transformer poses danger.

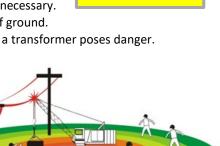
## Understand that YOU CAN BE ELECTROCUTED if you:

- Touch any part of an energized object (crane/equipment, load line, rigging, hoisted object, tag line, etc.). If you do, a potentially deadly flow of electricity is likely to pass through your body to ground, a grounded object, or object at a different voltage.
- Try to rescue a person in contact with an energized object.
- Try to step, walk, or run away from an energized object in proximity to you (35 ft., possibly more).

## A few things to remember...

There is much more to learn about power line safety, but for now...

- LOOK UP & LIVE Prior to work, identify the location of power lines on or near you. Look for lines at the start of each day circumstances can change.
- ASSUME WORST CASE Presume all power lines are energized and uninsulated (unless confirmed otherwise by the power line owner).
- MAINTAIN CLEARANCE Maintain a minimum of 10 ft. clearance between energized power lines up to 50 kV and any equipment, which can include personnel lifts, cranes, forklifts, ladders, scaffolds, & heavy equipment. (Greater clearances may be required for lines over 50 kV, if line voltage is unknown, or per project requirements.)
- AVOID CONTACT IS NOT A PLAN Where required clearances cannot be maintained, arrangements will need to be made to have the lines de-energized & grounded, relocated, or protected with an appropriately-rated dielectric cover. This will involve project leadership, but you need to know that, "just be careful and avoid contact" is NOT an acceptable plan.



Danger of death



