

A Safe Workplace

A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community

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Subject: SWP-6	Working Near Overhead Electrical Lines	Approved By: Harvey Bostrom
		Effective: April 01, 2005
		Revised: April 1, 2011

Refer to part 38 of *The Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulations*, Electrical Safety.

This safe work practice applies to every workplace where work is done within 3 meters (9.8 feet) of an overhead electrical line or equipment, machinery or ladders are used from a location from which it, or any part of it, is capable of coming within 3 meters (9.8 feet) of an overhead electrical line.

***The Workplace Safety and Health Regulation 217/2006* requires that Manitoba Hydro must be contacted prior to work being completed as described above and that Manitoba Hydro provide written confirmation based on legislative requirements. The written confirmation must be available at the site where the work is to be done or the equipment or machinery is to be used.**

General Requirements:

1. Written confirmation must be obtained from Manitoba Hydro as outlined above. This confirmation is the authorization permitting the work or the equipment to be used. Manitoba Hydro will determine if the line is to be:
 - de-energized to allow work;
 - guarded against contact (blanket the line); or
 - reroute or displace the electricity from the worksite.
2. Contact Manitoba Hydro to remove tree limbs, kites shoes etc. from electrical lines.
3. When working in the vicinity of overhead electrical lines within the area described above, a signal person must be assigned to give pre-arranged signals to the operator. The signal person must:
 - have an unobstructed view of the operator. Where it is not possible for the signal person and the operator to have unobstructed views a suitable means of communication must be provided (this could include a another person posted in-between the signal person and the operator);
 - ensure that the operator is aware when equipment or machinery may come into contact with the electrical line;
 - ensure that persons not authorized to be in the area, leave the site; and

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- prevent persons, other than the operator, from touching the equipment or machinery until safe to do so.
4. If equipment or machinery comes into contact with an energized electrical line, ensure the following:
- that the employee stays on board to remain safe;
 - if required to leave it, jumps clear of it, so that no part of the employee's body touches the equipment or machinery and the ground at the same time;
 - take immediate precautions to prevent any other employee from coming close to, or in contact with, the electrical line or the equipment or machinery that is in contact with it; and
 - if the equipment is operable and can be moved out of contact without doing additional damage to the line or poles, do so.
5. When an electrical line is down:
- do not approach the line;
 - do not attempt to move anything that is in contact with the line;
 - set up barricades and warn others of the danger; and
 - advise Manitoba Hydro of the downed line.