

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## MACHINE SAFETY – OVERHEAD POWER LINE CONTACT

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit [hollandcs.com/toolboxtalks](https://hollandcs.com/toolboxtalks).

**Note: Physical contact does not have to be made for electrocution to happen from an electrical arc.**

## MACHINE SAFETY – OVERHEAD POWER LINE CONTACT

### PREVENTION:

- Read and understand the instruction and warnings in the Operation & Maintenance Manual (OMM) relating to overhead power lines. Failure to follow the instructions and warnings may cause serious injury or death
- Identify where the power lines are at your site and watch for them while you are in their vicinity
- Install appropriate markers for each overhead power line to include signage in both directions and on both sides of the ROW
- Spotter should wear a high visibility vest and other appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Management must ensure that all personnel are properly trained for their specific job duties
- Take note if anything is different about the power lines, such as sagging or missing lines (which may mean the line is on the ground)
- Check for power lines near buildings or weigh stations, in storage yards, any lighted area or near cranes or scaffolds
- Look for barriers underneath power lines, warning signs or high visibility spheres on the lines themselves
- When you approach power lines, make sure machine implements and attachments are as low as possible. If you are not sure then stop and verify

### WHEN CONTACT IS MADE:

- Stay calm and stop your machine
- Shift to neutral, set the parking brake and shut down your engine
- Supervisor or other designated person should call for assistance
- STAY SEATED IN THE CAB OR ON THE MACHINE until someone comes and checks the location of the line. Remember, you cannot see everything around and under your machine. It may look safe to you, but the spotter on the ground can see more and make a better judgment
- Call the utility company if life-threatening conditions exist or develop. Secure the area and keep all personnel out of the secured area
- Company personnel must be notified if any contact is made by the equipment and overhead power lines to ensure equipment is inspected before further use

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