

WORKER BEWARE®

Work safely around power lines

Respect the Power of Electricity

- **When you arrive at a job site, always identify power lines and high-voltage equipment**, and point them out to your coworkers. Contact Tampa Electric for power line assistance or questions at **1-813-635-1500**.
- **Assume *all* overhead power lines are energized**, including service drops running between poles and buildings.
- **Power lines are not insulated.** Any coating you see will not protect you from being shocked. Death or injury can result from contact with any power line, even service drops.
- **Check the site daily** because conditions may change.
- **Review your emergency plan before work begins** so everyone knows what to do in case of power line contact.



Always Observe the 10-foot Rule

- **OSHA requires that you keep yourself and your equipment *at least 10 feet away* from overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV.** This applies to all personnel, tools and equipment other than cranes and derricks used in construction. Cranes and derricks on construction sites may require greater clearances, which we will discuss on the next slide. Be aware that wind can move long or tall equipment, so build in some extra distance in case of an unexpected shift.
- **Higher-voltage lines require greater clearances.** Contact Tampa Electric for clearance information.
- **If your job requires you to work or position a scaffold closer than 10 feet from power lines,** call Tampa Electric well in advance to make safety arrangements.
- **Electrical safety distances given here are minimums.**
- **Always use the maximum possible distance,** and clearly mark boundaries to keep workers and equipment the required distance away.

Cranes & Derricks in Construction

- **For all power lines, keep the crane boom and load *at least 20 feet away*.** If any part of the crane/derrick equipment, load line or load can get closer than 20 feet to the power line, in any direction, the employer shall meet the requirements of OSHA 29CFR 1926 1407 through 1411 to use the minimum clearance for cranes and derricks.
- **Always assume the line is energized**, and allow nothing closer unless you have confirmed with the utility owner/operator that the line has been de-energized and grounded.
- **Tampa Electric can help you confirm voltages and safe clearances for cranes and derricks.** Contact them for safety guidance at least three business days before you start working near power lines.
- **Once safety clearances are confirmed, clearly mark boundaries** with tape, signs or barricades to keep workers and equipment the required distance away.



Use a Dedicated Spotter

- **Always use a dedicated, qualified spotter on the ground** to safely judge distances between hoisted loads and power lines.
- **Crane and derrick operators,** maintain continuous communication with a dedicated spotter to comply with electric line clearance requirements.
- **The spotter's only responsibility should be power line safety.** Don't divide the spotter's attention with other tasks.



Call Before You Dig

- **Call 811 or visit sunshine811.com to place a ticket request before you dig or move earth in any way.** This service will arrange to have underground power lines and other facilities marked for free so you can dig a safe distance away. Even small jobs require this.
- **Clearly describe your excavation site on your 811 request.** White lining or staking your dig area can help locators more easily identify and mark affected utilities.
- **Wait at least two full business days** for utilities to mark their lines, excluding the date of the request, weekends and holidays.
- **Failure to notify 811 can result in death or injury** from contacting underground power lines.
- **You may be held liable for any resulting damages,** as well as outage and repair costs.

Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.











**Know what's below.
811 before you dig.**

Dig Safely

- **Talk to the property owner.** Ask about any private underground lines that may not belong to a utility and so would not be marked by the locator.
- **Respect the locator marks.** Maintain utility indicator marks and follow them when digging.
- **Dig with care. Follow state laws for digging within the tolerance zone,** which extends 24 inches from the outer edge of either side of the exterior surface of a marked underground facility.
- **Know the underground utility color code:**

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION COLOR CODE FOR LOCATOR MARKS



	Electric power lines
	Gas, oil or steam pipelines
	Communications lines, cables or conduit
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	Sewers and drain lines
	Temporary survey markings
	Your proposed excavation

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If Your Equipment Contacts a Power Line

- **Both the equipment and the line should be considered energized.**
- **Have someone call 911 and Tampa Electric immediately at 1-877-588-1010.**
- **Remain on the equipment** until Tampa Electric utility workers arrive and de-energize the line.
- **Warn others to stay away.**
- **Move equipment away from the line only if it is safe to do so.**
- **Never touch or drive over downed power lines** or anything they may be contacting.
- **If fire or other danger forces you off:**
 - Jump clear, keeping both feet together and without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.
 - Then shuffle **at least 20 feet away**, keeping both feet together and on the ground at all times.
 - Do not return to the equipment.



Electrical Safety Review

- Identify all power lines and electrical equipment upon arrival at a job site. Recheck the site daily.
- Keep yourself and all tools and equipment other than cranes or derricks **at least 10 feet away** from *all* overhead power lines.
- Cranes and derricks used in construction may require clearances *greater than 10 feet* and encroachment prevention precautions.
- Contact Tampa Electric to confirm voltages and safe clearances.
- Build in extra safety distances.
- Always use a dedicated spotter.
- Notify Sunshine 811 before you dig.
- If a power line contact occurs, follow proper safety procedures, and immediately call **911** and Tampa Electric.

Contact Information

- In case of emergency, call Tampa Electric at **1-877-588-1010**.
- For additional information, visit our website at **tampa.e-smartworkers.com**.
- For power line assistance or questions, contact Tampa Electric at **1-813-635-1500**.

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