

Agriculture Safety

Your local cooperative wants to remind you of the many electrical hazards that can be found on the farm.

Overhead power lines

Entanglement with overhead power lines and farm equipment is one of the most common electrical hazards on the farm. Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines. Tractors with front-end loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up planters, dump truck beds and sprayer booms are all examples of equipment that can easily get caught in overhead power lines.

Recommendations:

- * Look up before moving or transporting equipment especially around buildings, grain bins or entrance/exiting fields and farms.
- * Power lines should be at least 18 feet above the highest point of grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used.
- * Considering burying electric lines to reduce the risk of accidental contact.
- * Remember some equipment during transportation is actually taller than when in use.
- * Another thing you need to be careful of is bumping into the guide wires on electrical poles. This will cause sagging in the overhead lines and will make entanglement more likely.
- * Always stay alert and never take unnecessary risks.

What to do in case of an accident

If someone is being shocked by electricity, then disconnect the power source by turning off the circuit breaker only. Never try to unplug the cord, move an energized line with any object, or grab the person yourself to free them. If you touch the person, you become part of the accident. Once the person is free from contact, CPR should be administered to resuscitate the individual if necessary.

If entanglement occurs with overhead power lines while in machinery, never try to leave the machinery. Wait until help arrives because the machine itself can be energized, acting as a path for the electricity to ground, and if you try to leave the machine then you can also become a path to ground. If it is absolutely necessary to leave the potentially energized machine, as in the case of a fire, then jump free of the machine. Avoid contact with the machine and ground at the same time. Once on the ground, continue to jump away from the machine with feet together at all times.

Standby generators

For emergency power, many farms have standby generators. An essential component of your generating system is the transfer switch, which separates the farm's electrical system from the utility lines of the power company. The switch prevents electricity generated by a farm emergency power system to back feed onto the power lines of the utility company; therefore protecting the lineworkers who are working on the lines to restore your power. The switch also protects your generator when power is restored.

Recommendations:

- * Always use a transfer switch with a generator.
- * Train all employees on location of transfer



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