

INDUSTRY WIDE LABOR-MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

SAFETY BULLETIN #23

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH PORTABLE POWER DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

"ADDENDUM A" – POWER LINE DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

When working outdoors with portable power distribution and other electrical equipment, it is important to locate and identify hazards such as overhead electrical power lines. Utility companies often use the phrase "Look Up and Live" when reminding workers of the potential hazards associated with overhead electrical power lines. All overhead electrical power lines have a Minimum Required Clearance (MRC), depending on the phase-to-phase voltage. Voltages can be found by contacting the utility owner/operator or a professional electrical engineer who is a qualified person with respect to electrical power transmission and distribution.

AVOID POWER LINES. In the event that work must be done in proximity to, or under any overhead electrical power lines, including, but not limited to, the placement of equipment such as ladders, scaffold, booms, forklifts, aerial lifts, sets, cranes, or other rigging, cast and crew should be made aware of the MRC and safe work practices. The operation of any equipment OVER energized, high-voltage power lines shall be prohibited. There may be additional regulations and/or exceptions for any aerial lifts (Mobile Elevated Work Platforms a.k.a. MEWP) rigged with electrical lighting, special effects, or grip equipment; please refer to the Power Lines section in Safety Bulletin #22 - Guidelines for the Use of Scissor Lifts (Elevating Work Platforms) and Aerial Boom Lifts (Extensible Boom Platforms).

Cal-OSHA and Fed-OSHA regulations include tables that specify the MRC for overhead electrical power lines according to different voltage levels. When working in California, follow Table 1 below. When working outside of California in the United States, follow the Fed-OSHA Table 2 below, unless the state in which you are working has separate standards, which can be accessed on the individual state's OSHA website.

Production should always consult the proper authority (federal, state, and/or local) to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

Table 1 Cal-OSHA (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2946)

Nominal Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Required Clearance (Feet)
600.....50,000	10
over 50,000.....75,000	11
over 75,000 125,000	13
over 125,000 175,000	15
over 175,000 250,000	17
over 250,000 370,000	21
over 370,000 550,000	27
over 550,000 1,000,000	42

Table 2 – Fed-OSHA (based on the formula given in Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.333(c)(3)(i)(A): For voltages over 50,000 - 10 feet plus 4 inches for every 10,000 volts over 50,000.

Nominal Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Required Clearance (Feet)
Up to 50,000	10
Over 50,000 to 200,000	15
Over 200,000 to 350,000	20
Over 350,000 to 500,000	25
Over 500,000 to 750,000	34
Over 750,000 to 1,000,000	42
Over 1,000,000	As established by the Utility Owner/Operator

Your employer may choose to set greater clearance requirements than listed above. If there are questions or concerns, consult with your production safety representative for more information.

Additional information on power line distance requirements can be found in Safety Bulletins:

- [#8C - Guidelines for Traditional Camera Cars "Addendum C" – Power Line Distance Requirements](#)
- [#22A - Guidelines for the Use of Elevating Work Platforms \(Scissor Lifts\) and Aerial Extensible Boom Platforms "Addendum A" – Power Line Distance Requirements](#)
- [#25A – Camera Cranes “Addendum A” – Power Line Distance Requirements](#)