



COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

POLICY

OVERHEAD POWER LINES

CREATED: 2/9/2025

REVISED:

TOTAL PAGES: 2

PURPOSE

This procedure provides direction to managers, supervisors, and workers about their responsibilities regarding the hazards of overhead power lines.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to County of Northern Lights operations where employees may be exposed to overhead power lines. When work is performed on a non-owned or operated site, the operator's program shall take precedence, however, this document covers County of Northern Lights employees and contractors when an operator's program doesn't exist or is less stringent.

REQUIREMENTS

Notification

County of Northern Lights must notify the operator of an energized overhead power line before work is done or equipment is operated in the vicinity of the power line at distances less than the safe limit of approach distances listed in Schedule 4 of the Alberta OHS Code, and obtain the operator's assistance in protecting workers involved.

Clear Distances

County of Northern Lights must ensure that the safe limit of approach distance is maintained and that no work is done and no equipment is operated at distances less than the established safe limit of approach distance. County of Northern Lights must contact the power line operator before work is done or equipment is operated within 7.0 meters of an energized overhead power line to determine the voltage of the power line and to establish the appropriate safe limit of approach distance listed in Schedule 4 of the Alberta OHS Code.

NOTE:

No person may perform work within 7 m of an overhead power line if the voltage is unknown

Materials will not be placed under or beside an overhead power line if doing so reduces the safe clearance to less than the safe limit of approach distance.

Signaling

A signal person must be utilized when operating equipment near an overhead power line if the operator's view is obstructed. A signal person responsible for giving signals to the operator of equipment or machinery must have an unobstructed view of the operator, signal the operator when the equipment or machinery being operated may come into contact with the electrical line and make all reasonable efforts to notify persons who are not required to be engaged in the work that they are prohibited from entering the worksite, and prevent persons, other than the operator, from touching the equipment or machinery until it is safe to do so.

When it is not possible for the signal person and the operator of the equipment or machinery to have an unobstructed view of each other, County of Northern Lights must ensure that the signal person and the operator of the equipment or machinery are provided with a suitable means of communication or a person is posted in a location where he or she can see both the signal person and the equipment or machinery, and relays all signals between the signal person and the operator



COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

POLICY

OVERHEAD POWER LINES

CREATED: 2/9/2025

REVISED:

TOTAL PAGES: 2

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- If equipment or machinery comes into contact with an energized overhead electrical line, County of Northern Lights must ensure that a worker on the equipment or machinery remains on it, or if required to leave it, jumps clear of it, so that no part of the worker's body touches the equipment or machinery and both feet contact the ground at the same time. Take immediate precautions to prevent any other worker from coming close to, or in contact with, the electrical line or the equipment or machinery that is in contact with it.
- Barriers shall be erected to prevent workers from entering the scene of the contact incident and shall remain in place until all sources of energy or other hazards have been eliminated.
- Local authorities and the client shall be immediately notified of the incident.

TRAINING

Workers are provided training on working near overhead power lines. County of Northern Lights must train workers who may perform work or operate equipment or machinery near overhead electrical lines in those safe work procedures. Training shall be documented and retained in the worker's training file.

COMMUNICATION

As per the County of Northern Lights Safety Management System Manual, and corporate communication policy, all applicable policies and procedures are reviewed with all new employees prior to engaging in any work activities (during orientation) and annually every twelve months thereafter with existing and/or returning employees (refresher training).

OHS – SCHEDULE 4 SAFE LIMIT OF APPROACH DISTANCES

Schedule 4 Safe Limit of Approach Distances [See sections 225, 226]

Table 1 Safe limit of approach distances from overhead power lines for persons and equipment

Operating voltage between conductors of overhead power line	Safe limit of approach distance for persons and equipment
0 — 750 volts Insulated or polyethylene covered conductors (1)	300 millimetres
0 — 750 volts Bare, uninsulated	1.0 metre
Above 750 volts Insulated conductors (1) (2)	1.0 metre
750 volts — 40 kilovolts	3.0 metres
69 kilovolts, 72 kilovolts	3.5 metres
138 kilovolts, 144 kilovolts	4.0 metres
230 kilovolts, 260 kilovolts	5.0 metres
500 kilovolts	7.0 metres

Notes:

(1) Conductors must be insulated or covered throughout their entire length to comply with this group.

(2) Conductors must be manufactured to rated and tested insulation levels.



COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
POLICY
OVERHEAD POWER LINES

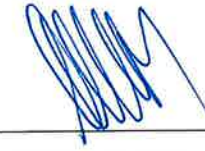
CREATED: 2/9/2025

REVISED:

TOTAL PAGES: 2



Chief Elected Official



Chief Administrative Officer