



County of Henrico Human Resources

Verification	Originator	Revised	Issued
Initials	Risk Management		Risk Management
Date	05/01/2015		05/20/2016

Safety/Loss Prevention Manual Chapter 25 Overhead High Voltage Lines

Area of Application:	Henrico County General Government & Schools
Document Location:	http://employees.henrico.us/info/safety-manual/
Revisions	
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001	
002	

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and protection of Henrico County personnel engaged in work or activity in the vicinity of overhead high voltage lines. This policy meets all requirements set forth by Chapter 30, Section 59.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Scope:

This chapter defines the conditions under which work may be carried on safely and provides for the safety arrangements to be taken when any Henrico County employee, or visiting contractor engages in work, or other activity, in proximity to overhead high voltage lines.

Program Administration:

Though the guidance of Risk Management, each affected agency will establish written protocol that will address needs specific to their operation and outline how the requirements of this policy will be met.

Exemptions:

This chapter shall not apply to the construction, reconstruction, operation, and maintenance of overhead electrical or communication circuits or conductors and their supporting structures and associated equipment of rail transportation systems, electrical generating, transmission or distribution systems, communication systems, including cable television, or any other publicly or privately owned system provided that such work on any of the foregoing systems is performed by the employees of the owner or operator of the systems or independent contractors engaged on behalf of the owner or operator of the system to perform the work.

Definitions:

Covered Equipment - Any mechanical equipment or hoisting equipment, any part of which is capable of vertical, lateral or swinging motion that could cause the equipment to be operated within ten feet of an overhead high voltage line, including but not limited to cranes, derricks, power shovels, drilling rigs and excavating equipment

Overhead High Voltage Line - All above ground bare or insulated electrical conductors of voltage in excess of 600 volts measured between conductors or measured between a conductor and the ground, except those conductors that are de-energized and grounded or that are enclosed in rigid metallic conduit or flexible armored conduit.



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Person - Natural person, firm, business association, company, partnership, corporation or other legal entity.

Person responsible for the work to be done - The person performing or controlling the job or activity

Warning Sign - means a weather-resistant sign of not less than five inches by seven inches with a yellow background and black lettering reading as follows: "WARNING – UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT WITHIN TEN FEET OF OVERHEAD HIGH VOLTAGE LINES" or such other equally effective warning signs as may be approved for use by the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board or the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

Prohibited Activities:

Unless danger of contact with overhead high voltage lines has been guarded against as provided by the temporary safety arrangements identified in this policy:

- A. No person shall, individually or through an agent or employee, perform, or require any other person to perform, any work or activity upon any land, building, highway or other premises that will cause such agent, employee or other person to be placed within six feet of any overhead high voltage line or any part of any tool or material used by the agent, employee or other person to be brought within six feet of any overhead high voltage line.
- B. No person shall, individually or through an agent or employee or as an agent or employee, operate any covered equipment within ten feet of any overhead high voltage line, or greater clearance if required by established code.

Warning Signs:

- A. No person shall, individually or through an agent or employee, or as an agent or employee, operate any covered equipment in the proximity of an overhead high voltage line unless there is, posted and maintained, a warning sign placed as follows:
 - Within the equipment and readily visible and legible to the operator of such equipment when at the controls of such equipment; and
- B. On the outside of equipment in such numbers and locations as to be readily visible and legible at twelve feet to other persons engaged in the work operations. It shall be the responsibility of the Site Supervisor/Foreman, or whoever may require the operation of any covered equipment to acquaint themselves, their employees, and visiting contractors who will be operating the equipment, or will be engaged in the work operations, with the provisions of this policy.

Temporary Safety Arrangements:

- A. Henrico County employees **shall never** carry on any work activity in closer proximity to any overhead high voltage line than permitted by this chapter.
- B. Should the need arise for any outside contractor/person to carry on any work or activity in closer proximity to any overhead high voltage line than permitted by this chapter, the contractor/person responsible for the work to be done shall notify the owner or operator of the high voltage line in the manner prescribed in the notification section of this policy at least forty-eight hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal state and federal holidays, or in emergency situations, including police, fire and rescue emergencies, as soon as possible under the circumstances, prior to the time work is to be commenced.
- C. The work shall be performed only after satisfactory mutual arrangements have been negotiated between the owner or the operator of the lines or both and the contractor/person responsible for



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the work to be done. The negotiations shall proceed promptly and in good faith with the goal of accommodating the requested work consistent with the owner's or operator's service needs and the duty to protect the public from the danger of overhead high voltage lines.

- D. The owner or operator of the lines shall initiate the agreed upon safety arrangements within five working days and shall complete the work promptly and without interruption, consistent with the owner's or operator's service needs. Arrangements may include placement of temporary mechanical barriers separating and preventing contact between material, equipment, or persons and overhead high voltage lines, temporary de-energization and grounding, temporary relocation or raising of the lines, or other such measures found to be appropriate in the judgment of the owner or operator of the lines.
- E. When requested, an owner or operator of a high voltage line shall provide, within a reasonable period of time, an estimate of the scope and cost of any required safety arrangements.

Notification:

- A. Every notice served by any person on an owner or operator of an overhead high voltage line shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The name of the individual serving such notice;
 - 2. The location of the proposed work;
 - 3. The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the work;
 - 4. The field telephone number at the site of such work, if one is available;
 - 5. The type and extent of the proposed work;
 - 6. The name of the person for whom the proposed work is being performed;
 - 7. The time and date of the notice; and
 - 8. The approximate date and time when the work is to begin.
- B. If the notification is made by telephone, a record shall be maintained by the owner or operator notified, and the person giving the notice to document compliance.
- C. To facilitate notification, every operator of overhead high voltage lines shall publish a phone number or numbers which, when called, will serve to provide initial notification of the need to arrange for the temporary safety arrangements pursuant to this chapter.

Responsibility:

The Site Supervisor shall ensure all provisions of this policy are enforced and followed.

Disclaimer:

Although every effort has been made to ensure this Policy addresses all applicable regulations, it is the operational manager's responsibility to ensure all rules and regulations are identified and followed.