

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## Steps To Take If You Break...Electric Lines

(Excerpted with permission from the Excavator Manual published by Dig Safe System Inc. and available in full at [www.digsafe.com](http://www.digsafe.com))

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site/Project \_\_\_\_\_

Despite taking every effort to prevent underground utility damages, sometimes accidents happen. When an electric line is struck or damaged, the ground and surrounding equipment may become energized, especially in wet or moist conditions. Extra steps must be taken to protect worker and public safety and secure the jobsite.

- Stop Work immediately and warn all persons in the vicinity including rescue and emergency personnel, that the ground and objects near the point of contact may be energized.
- The equipment operator should remain on the excavation equipment until rescue personnel arrive. Keep others away.
- Personnel on the ground near the excavator or point of contact should remain still with both feet together. Don't touch the excavator, nearby equipment, structures or material.
- Contact the utility operator and fire department immediately if a radio or phone is at hand. Otherwise remain still and signal for help to relay a call for utility and emergency assistance.
- Evacuate the excavation equipment and the area near the point of contact only after an official of the electric utility deems it safe to do so.
- If immediate evacuation is required due to threat of serious injury from fire, explosion or other hazard:
  - Jump, not step, clear of the equipment and land with both feet together.
  - Move a safe distance away (at least 25 to 30 feet) using short hops or shuffling steps to keep both feet together at all times.
  - Do not take normal walking steps, this increases your chance of electrocution.
  - Do not resume work until an electric utility official confirms the site is safe.

Attendees

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