

SAFETY FIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



Safety Management
Services Company, 2015

An affiliate of
Cottingham & Butler

Be Safe Out There



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Contact with Overhead Power Lines

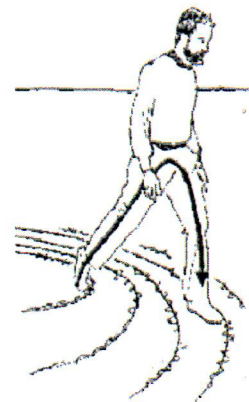
Crashes involving overhead power lines present the risk of electrocution and fire. Certainly, safe driving and looking for low hanging power lines can reduce the risk of making contact. If contact is made, correctly responding to the hazards can make the difference between life and death.

Electrical energy is looking for the shortest path to the ground, and it will pass through your truck, equipment, or yourself to reach it.

If your vehicle/equipment comes in contact with a power line, don't leave the vehicle if possible. Depending on the circumstances and whether it is safe to do so, try to drive away or back away from the downed wires to break electrical contact. If this is not possible or would increase risk of injury, stay in the cab and avoid touching any metal on the vehicle. Call 9-1-1 and report the emergency.

If you need to exit the vehicle because of fire, (not recommended under any other circumstance), prepare to jump from the vehicle. Jump from the vehicle without touching any wires or the equipment. This is one time not to use 3-points of contact, as holding onto equipment can complete the current's path to ground through your hands or feet.

When jumping, keep your feet together and try to stick your landing with both feet together while maintaining balance. If current has already made it to ground, soil near the vehicle could be at a higher voltage level than soil farther away. After landing, shuffle away from the vehicle using very short steps. Too large a step could put each foot in a different voltage zone and could kill you. Once safe, warn others, including emergency responders, in the area of the electrical hazards.



Correct actions taken in an electrical emergency can save lives. Becoming familiar with electrical hazards will make it easier for you to take the appropriate steps and act decisively if an emergency occurs.