

Letter to All Pleasant Springs residents; town employees and concerned citizens.

Recently an individual, hired by a home owner in the town to perform tree trimming activities on their private property, was electrocuted when their aerial equipment came into contact with high voltage power lines. This is truly a sad occurrence because so many electrical accidents can be averted by following some very basic safety rules. Each utility company publishes specific safety guidance which may be found at your utility company web site.

**Avoid power lines.** Most overhead electric power lines are bare wire or perhaps coated with weatherproofing material but, these lines are not insulated. Consider any electric line dangerous and always assume it is energized with a lethal potential. Keep all objects such as farm equipment, ladders, poles, antennas, kites, balloons, play forts, or anything that may come into contact or cause someone to come into contact away from power lines.

**Treat all electrical conductors as if they are energized and lethal.** Never touch a power line, one cannot tell if it is energized just by looking at it. Do not attempt to move power lines. Do not attempt to free anything caught in a power line. Please contact your power utility, in Pleasant Springs this is either, [Alliant Energy](#); [Stoughton Utilities](#) or [American Transmission Company \(ATC.\)](#) If you find a downed wire or cable always assume that it is energized and **call 9-1-1** even if you believe that it may be a telephone line; cable TV or even an fiber optic cable (which may have a conductive steel support strand.) While the wire or cable may be on the ground where you can see and it may not be sparking, this innocent looking conductor may be energized from a source beyond your view and simple act of moving the line or approaching it may prove to be fatal.

**Trees in and near power lines.** Tree limbs that grow near power lines can be unsafe. People that climb trees near power lines can get hurt or worse. Never trim trees near power lines and if you notice a tree or limb that is too close to a power line please contact your electrical utility. Planting a tree?...please check your electrical utility guidance on what to plant and where to locate them to avoid eventual contact with utility lines.

**Farm Safety.** Know where all overhead power lines are on your property and inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Use a spotter when operating large agricultural machinery near lines; keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times; in all directions.

Look up and live. Use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines. Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance; If a power line is sagging or low, contact your electrical utility.

If equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately **call 9-1-1**, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to disconnect the power. *The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.*

Never touch or get on machinery that is hung-up in a power line until the electric utility disconnects the line.

**Call before you dig or engage in any activities near power lines.** Many power lines are buried underground in our town. [Contact 8-1-1](#) at least three working days before you plan to dig or hammer fence posts into the ground. This free call and service will show you where electric utilities and other public utility lines are located. **Overhead electrical utility lines can also be identified and covered**

**with sleeves to highlight the hazard.** *Be aware that private lines such as electric feeder lines to out buildings; most propane gas lines, or septic systems, as examples, will not be located by calling 8-1-1. Private lines are your responsibly to locate before you dig!*