

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITY REPORT

Overhead Powerline Safety

Please Post

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Bureau of Labor Standards
Research and Statistics Unit
Maine Department of Labor
45 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0045

SafetyWorks!, a program of the Maine Department of Labor, provides free training and consultations on workplace safety and health issues such as the one described inside. For more information, call toll-free **1-877-SAFE-345**.

Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance

The Research and Statistics Unit generates work-related injury and illness statistics. It provides annual counts, case characteristics and incidence rates of fatal and non-fatal injuries and illnesses. The annual counts and case characteristics data are generated from the Employer's First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease submitted to the Maine Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) while incidence rates and fatal cases are derived from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) respectively.

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITY REPORT

Overhead Powerline Safety

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards

OFR 04/08

One Worker Killed, Another Critically Injured in a Work-Related Electrocution

Incident

A crane that was being used to set up a modular home contacted a 7,200-volt power line. Two workers working below were electrocuted, one fatally and the other was critically injured.



(Not actual incident site)

Safety & Health Regulations and Standards

29 CFR 1926.550(a)(15) specifically applies to boomed vehicles coming in contact with overhead power lines. As a general safe work practice, a minimum distance of 10 feet or more should be maintained between power lines and any conductive material or vehicle, based on the lines rating.

Injury Data

Nationally since 2003, an average of 56 workers in the construction industry have been fatally electrocuted on the job. These fatalities involved work activities where there were contacts with overhead power lines. In Maine, between 1990-2007, eight workers were killed in work activities involving contacts with overhead power lines.

Table 1: Fatalities by Event (National CFOI)

Year/Event	2003	2004	2005	2006
Contacts with overhead power lines	50	67	52	55

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Prevention Strategies

Recommendation 1: Maintain a minimum 10-foot safety zone between power lines and any conductive equipment, material or vehicle.

Recommendation 2: Designate a person to observe clearance and to give timely warning where it is difficult for the operator to maintain clearance

Recommendation 3: Employers should contact the local utility company to de-energize or insulate the power lines when circumstances offer no safe alternatives to operating boomed vehicles in close proximity to power lines

Recommendation 4: Train and ensure that workers have knowledge of proper emergency response actions when responding to a medical emergency or an injury scene near downed power lines and never assume downed power lines and surrounding ground are de-energized.

For free consultation services, please contact SafetyWorks! at (207) 623-7900, TTY 1-800-794-1110 or visit their web site at www.safetyworksmaine.com