

# Tips of the trade



## Overhead power line clearances

*Maintaining the proper clearance from overhead power lines is not only critical to a safe work environment, it's the law. Before you start work, call National Grid to verify voltages and determine required safety clearances.*



Order our **FREE** worker safety kit on the National Grid e-SMARTworkers website.

[Order kit](#)

## The deal on clearances

Here are some key rules to remember:

- **When working with ladders, scaffolding or long tools:** Keep yourself and all tools and equipment *at least 10 feet away* from overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV, including service drops that run from utility poles to buildings.
- **When cranes and derricks are used in construction:** Keep the crane boom and load *at least 20 feet away* from lines up to 350 kV. Keep them *at least 50 feet away* from lines greater than 350 kV, up to and including 1,000 kV lines. Always assume the line is energized, and allow nothing closer unless you have confirmed with the utility owner/operator that the line has been de-energized.
  - If voltage is unknown, contact National Grid before work begins.
- **As voltage increases, clearance distances also increase.** For specific requirements, consult National Grid and [osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov).
- **Clearly mark boundaries with tape, signs or barricades** to keep workers and equipment the required distance away.
- **Always use a dedicated spotter on the ground** to help you stay clear of power lines.

If you must work closer than regulations allow, contact National Grid well in advance so that safety arrangements can be made.

## Don't forget

Power lines are not insulated. Always consider them energized and dangerous. Any contact with overhead lines could cause serious injury to equipment operators and ground crew.

## Would you like to know more?

Additional utility safety tips, case studies, instructional videos and educational tools can all be found, at no charge to you, on National Grid's [contractor safety website](#).

For more contractor safety information, visit [ngridssafety.com](https://ngridssafety.com).

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately. Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!

**Smell Gas. Act Fast.**



Know what's below. **811** before you dig.

In case of gas emergencies:

Long Island and the Rockaways: **911 and 1-800-490-0045**

Metro New York: **911 and 1-718-643-4050**

Upstate New York: **911 and 1-800-892-2345**

Massachusetts: **911 and 1-800-233-5325**

In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York: **911 and 1-800-867-5222**

Massachusetts: **911 and 1-800-465-1212**