

# Tips of the trade



## Power line safety for dump trucks

*Power line contacts involving dump trucks can result in severe injury or death for the driver as well as anyone standing on the ground nearby. Follow the safety tips below to prevent these dangerous incidents.*



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

[Order kit](#)

## Maintain proper safety clearance distances

Dump trucks should NEVER operate under power lines. If you drive a dump truck or assist with loading or unloading, locate all overhead power lines when entering any job site and always keep the dump body and all materials the required distance away.

Consider how high the dump body will reach when fully raised and use the table below to determine clearance distances for power lines at your job site. If you are unsure of the line voltage or clearance distance, do NOT raise the dump body. Call National Grid for guidance.

Power line voltage	Minimum clearance distance
Up to 50 kV	10 feet
Over 50 to 200 kV	15 feet
Over 200 to 350 kV	20 feet
Over 350 to 500 kV	25 feet
Over 500 to 750 kV	35 feet
Over 750 to 1000 kV	45 feet

Source: OSHA Table A

## Take additional precautions

- **Mark a safety boundary** on the ground to ensure all parts of the truck will remain the required distance away from power lines.
- **Work with a dedicated spotter** whose only job will be to help you maintain proper clearance distances from power lines. Your spotter should be positioned at least 30 feet away from the truck.
- After dumping a load, **always lower the dump body completely** before moving the truck. (An audible dump body-up indicator can remind you when it is raised.)

## In case of power line contact

If your truck should contact an overhead power line or cause an overhead power line to fall, **assume the power line is energized** and take the following steps:

- **Call 911 and National Grid immediately.** Stay inside the cab until National Grid utility workers say it is safe to get out of the truck.
- **Warn others** to stay far away from the line and anything it is touching. Anyone who contacts the line, the equipment or even the ground nearby may be injured or killed.

If fire forces you to exit the cab, jump clear without touching any part of the truck and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet together and on the ground at all times. Once clear, do not return to the truck until National Grid has declared it safe.

## 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 [nagridsafety.com](https://nagridsafety.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**