



# Overhead Power Lines

***Overhead power lines at construction sites can be dangerous for the workers, especially when equipment such as cranes, cherry pickers, and high lifts are used. Contact with overhead power lines can result in serious injury and even death.***

## **Lawrence's Story**

Lawrence was part of a crew that was installing steel roof beams on a school building, using a boom crane. He was standing by the joists, waiting to hook the beams to the chain slings, when the crane operator swung the slings toward him. The slings touched the power line, became energized, and sent electricity through Lawrence. An ambulance rushed him to the hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival.

- ✘ Do you know anyone who has been injured or electrocuted when a crane contacted an overhead power line? If so, what happened?**
- ✘ Could an electrocution involving a crane and power line happen at your worksite?**

## **Remember This**

- Check with your supervisor to make sure the power company has shut off the energy to the power lines before using equipment nearby.
- Keep machinery, equipment, and loads 20 feet (or more) from power lines.
- **Never** store materials and equipment under or near overhead power lines.
- Use only nonconductive (or insulated) tag lines.
- Operate machines at a slower-than-normal rate when close to power lines. Use a spotter to keep a safe distance.
- Be careful to maintain distance from overhead power lines, since wind can cause the lines to sway and reduce the clearance between them and the machinery or equipment.
- Follow routes marked as safe and color coding when machines must travel beneath power lines.
- Use caution when traveling over uneven ground. This could cause the machine to weave or bob into power lines.
- Stay 20 feet (or more) from machines that are close to power lines.

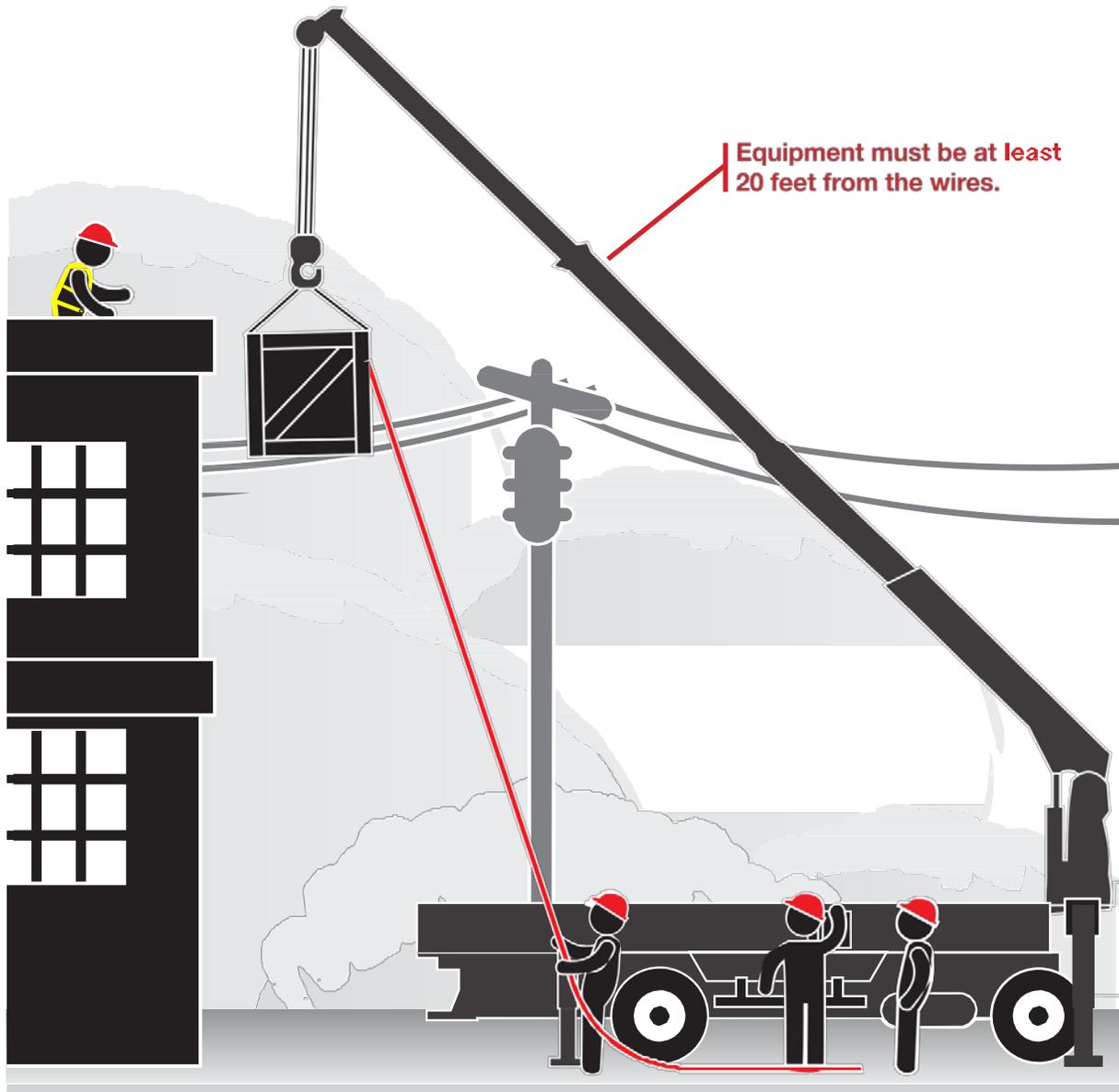
## **How can we stay safe today?**

What will we do at the worksite to prevent electrocutions from overhead power lines?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA Regulation: 1926.1408

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- ✘ Ask your supervisor if the energy to the overhead powerlines has been shut off before using equipment.
- ✘ If the energy to the power lines has not been shut off, keep equipment 20 feet or more away from powerlines, operate machines at a slower than normal rate, and use a spotter to keep a safe distance.
- ✘ Use only nonconductive (or insulated) tag lines.
- ✘ **Never** store materials and equipment under or near overhead power lines.