

Wyoming's Overhead Line Safety Act

Facts you
should know
when working
near overhead
power lines



To order free Rocky Mountain Power safety materials or schedule a free safety presentation, call us at 1-800-375-7085. For all other information and for safety assistance around power lines, call toll free at 1-888-221-7070.

More safety information is available at www.rockymountainpower.net.



To protect those working near overhead power lines from accidental contact, the Wyoming Legislature enacted the High Voltage Line Safety Act in 1989.

This law stipulates that 1) no person, or part of any tool or material used or handled by a person, shall get within six feet of a high voltage overhead power line, and 2) no equipment (including any load being handled) shall be operated within 10 feet of a high voltage overhead power line in the performance of a work activity until the following requirements are met:

- **The responsible party has notified the utility operating the overhead line of the intended activity, and**
- **The responsible party and the utility have completed safety arrangements for the activity.**

We'll work with you

As soon as you inform Rocky Mountain Power of your intended activity, we will work with you on appropriate precautions and safety arrangements. Our response may include any or all of the following:

1. Coordinate work activity schedules.
2. Place temporary mechanical barriers to prevent contact with the lines.
3. Temporarily de-energize and ground the lines.
4. Temporarily raise or move the lines.

Provision for payment

The law stipulates that the responsible party is to pay the utility for the cost of providing the safety arrangements.

Failure to comply

If a violation of this law results in physical or electrical contact with an overhead line, the party committing the violation will be liable to the utility for all damages to the facilities and all costs and expenses, including damages to any third persons, incurred by the utility as a result of the contact.

For your reference, the law is printed in full in this brochure.

Contact us immediately

If you or your contractor are going to be working near overhead power lines, please immediately contact the Rocky Mountain Power office nearest your work site, or call toll free at 1-888-221-7070. If you don't know who operates the power line, call us and we will gladly advise you.

Rocky Mountain Power wants you to be safe. We look forward to helping make your work activities around overhead lines as safe as possible.

TITLE 37, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3

§ 37-3-301 Short title

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Wyoming High Voltage Power Lines and Safety Restrictions Act.”

§ 37-3-302 Definitions

(a) As used in this act:

(i) “Authorized person” means:

(A) An employee of a public utility which produces, transmits or delivers electricity;

(B) An employee of a public utility which provides and whose work relates to communication services or state, county or municipal agencies which have authorized circuit construction on or near the poles or structures of a public utility;

(C) An employee of an industrial plant whose work relates to the electrical system of the industrial plant;

(D) An employee of a cable television or communication services company or an employee of a contractor of a cable television or communication services company if specifically authorized by the owner of the poles to make cable television or communication services attachments; or

(E) An employee or agent of state, county or municipal agencies which have or whose work relates to overhead electrical lines or circuit construction or conductors on poles or structures of any type.

(iii) “High voltage” means voltage in excess of six hundred (600) volts measured between conductors or between conductors or between a conductor and the ground;

(iii) “Overhead line” means all bare or insulated electrical conductors installed above ground;

(iv) “Person” or “business entity” means those parties who contract to perform any function or activity upon any land, building, highway or other premises, excluding those parties providing emergency services including emergency rescue operations and fire protection services;

(v) “Public utility” means a public utility as defined in W.S. 37-1-101(a)(vi) which owns or operates a high voltage overhead line;

(vi) “This act” means W.S. 37-3-301 through 37-3-306.

§ 37-3-303 Activity near overhead line; safety restrictions

(a) Unless danger against contact with high voltage overhead lines has been effectively guarded against as provided by W.S. 37-3-304 a person or business entity, individually or through an agent or employee or as an agent or employee, shall not:

(i) Require any other person to perform any act if at any time during the performance of the act it is possible that the actor could move or be moved closer to any high voltage overhead line or if it is possible that any part of any tool or material used by the actor could be moved closer to any high voltage overhead line during the performance of the act than the following clearances:

(A) For lines rated fifty (50) kilovolts or less, six (6) feet of clearance;

(B) For lines rated over fifty (50) kilovolts, six (6) feet plus four-tenths (.4) of an inch for each kilovolt over fifty (50) kilovolts.

(ii) Operate any mechanical equipment or hoisting equipment or any load of equipment, any part of which is capable of vertical, lateral or swinging motion closer to any high voltage overhead line than the following clearances:

(A) For line rated fifty (50) kilovolts or less, ten (10) feet of clearance; (B) For lines rated over fifty (50) kilovolts, ten (10) feet plus four-tenths (.4) of an inch for each kilovolt over fifty (50) kilovolts.

§ 37-3-304 Activity in close proximity to lines; clearance arrangements; procedure; payment; notice

(a) If any person or business entity desires to temporarily carry on any act in closer proximity to any high voltage overhead line than permitted by this act, the person or business entity responsible for performing the work shall promptly notify the appropriate public utility and shall ask the public utility for assistance. An agent or employee of the public utility shall prepare and sign a memorandum stating the public utility received a request for assistance. The person or business entity may perform the work only after developing satisfactory safety arrangements, including coordination of work and construction schedules, with the public utility. Arrangements may include placing temporary mechanical barriers to prevent contact between material, equipment or persons and the high voltage overhead lines or temporary shut down and grounding or temporary relocation or raising of the high voltage overhead lines.

(b) Except where the public utility has installed lines within ten (10) feet of an existing fixture or structure the person or business entity responsible for performing the work in the vicinity of the high voltage overhead

lines shall pay the public utility’s actual expenses in providing safety arrangements. The public utility is not required to begin the safety arrangements until a written agreement for payment has been made.

(c) The public utility shall begin the safety arrangements according to the agreement signed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 37-3-305 Indemnification

If a violation of this act results in physical or electrical contact with any high voltage overhead line, the person or business entity violating this act is liable to the public utility for all damages to the facilities and all costs and expenses, including damages to third parties, incurred by the public utility as a result of the contact.

§ 37-3-306 Exemptions

(a) This act shall not apply to:

(i) Construction, reconstruction, operation or maintenance by an authorized person of overhead electrical or communication circuits or conductors and their supporting structures or electrical generating, transmission or distribution systems or communication systems;

(ii) Any person lawfully occupying the land on which the high voltage overhead line is located and engaging in the regular and ordinary functions and activities of farming, ranching or other agricultural functions and activities.