



Working Close to High Voltage Equipment and Conductors in BC

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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Information Alert

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The following information is not a definitive guide to government legislation and does not release users of this document from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

In addition to following the practices & procedures to follow when working near overhead power lines outlined in CAGC's Safety Bulletin 2001-05 the following additional operating procedures must be adhered to when working close to high voltage equipment and conductors in the province of British Columbia.

Assurance in Writing – Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 19.25

- (1) If the minimum distance in Table 19-1 cannot be maintained because of the circumstances of work or the inadvertent movement of persons or equipment, an assurance in writing on a form acceptable to the board and signed by a representative of the owner of the power system, must be obtained.
- (2) The assurance must state that while the work is being done the electrical equipment and conductors will be displaced or rerouted from the work area, if practicable.

Table 19-1: General Limits of Approach

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Voltage	Minimum Distance	
Phase to Phase	Meters	Feet
Over 750 V to 75 kV	3	10
Over 75 kV to 250 kV	4.5	15
Over 250 kV to 550 kV	6	20

Workers' Compensation Board form 30M33 is available from WCB and BC Hydro for this purpose. (Issue: prior to working in proximity to HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS, both WCB and BC Hydro must be notified).

Once a 30M33 has been filed with BC Hydro and WCB and work is going to be performed within the minimum distances to energized high voltage equipment.

Qualifications – Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 19.32.

WORKING CLOSE TO HIGH VOLTAGE EQUIPMENT AND CONDUCTORS IN BC

Tree pruning or falling within the minimum distances in Table 19-1 from overhead energized high voltage conductors must be carried out by a worker authorized by the owner of the power system to do such work.

Note: Normally only a qualified electrical worker, a certified utility arborist, or an apprentice utility arborist working under the direct supervision of a certified utility arborist or a qualified electrical worker will be authorized to do this work.

The regulation specifies that only qualified workers as authorized by the owner of the utility can work within the minimum distances specified in Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 19.27 table 19-2.

Table 19-2: Adjusted Limits of Approach

Table 19-2: General Limits of Approach		
Voltage	Minimum Distance	
Phase to Phase	Meters	Feet
Over 750 V to 20 kV	0.9	3
Over 20 kV to 30 kV	1.2	4
Over 30 kV to 75 kV	1.5	5

At this point BC Hydro requires that these workers be a qualified electrical worker (Canadian Electrical Code = Electrician or Lineman) or a certified utility arborist.