



Don't Be That Guy

As we enter August, we begin to see more activity in the fields and before you know it, it will be harvest time. Yet, we also see an increase in poles being hit with this activity. Making contact with a power line that is overhead or underground is serious and can be deadly. So, what can you do to not be “that guy?”

- Power lines can sag; just because your equipment cleared it last year, it might not this year. Make sure to always keep 10 feet distance from any overhead power line. How can you tell? Use a spotter to watch the equipment being moved.
- Make this a daily habit to look around before beginning the day and notice where the power lines are located. Look for the underground cabinets, too. Point out these items to anyone else you are working with.
- Be extra cautious when moving equipment in windy conditions. Always better to lower the equipment before moving it.
- Always lower a grain auger when moving it from bin to bin.
- Build grain bins away from power lines to reduce the risk of grain augers coming into contact with the lines. This action also eliminates the chance of a storm blowing a power line onto a metal building which then becomes electrified.
- If you are planning to move a building or bring a new one onto your site, call the co-op to make sure the power lines can be safely moved and cleared.
- Report any lines that appear low or sagging.
- Always call 811 before doing any digging.
- Never assume a line or underground cabinet is safe to touch; we cannot tell if it is energized simply by looking at it. Again, call the co-op promptly.
- If your equipment gets in a power line, do not leave the equipment. Remain in the cab, as long as it is not on fire, and call the co-op right away. If you must leave, know how to leave the cab safely.
- Don't let anyone approach the cab of any equipment that has come in contact with a power line; keep them a safe distance away which is usually at least 30 feet.
- Always have an emergency plan in place and teach all family members what to do. Don't touch or move anyone who is in contact with electricity. You could be shocked. When calling 911 or your local emergency number, be sure to report an electric-contact accident.

