



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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*Safety Tips: Work Safely  
Around Electricity*



All electrical systems have the potential to cause harm. The voltage of electricity and the available electrical current in regular businesses, homes and farms has enough power to cause death by electrocution. We can change a light bulb without unplugging a lamp or cutting the power to a room light switch. But, this can be hazardous by coming in contact with a “hot,” “energized,” or “live” part of the socket, which could critically injure you or could kill you.

### EMINENT DANGERS OF ELECTRICITY-

- ✓ At one time or another all of us have received a minor shock. Shocks occur when an electrical current travels through your body until it becomes grounded.
- ✓ Shocks are likely to happen when you:
  - ~ accidentally touch a live wire, or
  - ~ come in contact with electric current passing through a poorly insulated power tool, an electrical device or a faulty electrical cord.
- ✓ You probably will receive a shock when you plug a cord into an outlet while standing in water or when you have wet hands.
- ✓ Other electrical hazards include:
  - ~ sparks from an electric motor or faulty cords.
  - ~ fires created from overloaded circuits.
  - ~ explosions that result from overheated equipment stored in an area where flammable liquids, vapors, or dust is present.
  - ~ burns that may occur when you accidentally touch overheated wires or electrically operated equipment.

### TIPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION-

Be on the lookout for the following potential hazards:

- frayed electrical cords
- loose electrical connections
- wires or cords in areas where people walk
- low overhead power lines when operating certain types of equipment, like grain augers, equipment with overhead cranes or loading equipment
- equipment that smells, smokes or sparks
- household-grade extension cords overloaded from using them with heavy equipment.
- overloaded circuits
- ungrounded equipment or wires
- missing covers on equipment or electrical boxes

### DO:

- ~ **Make sure the electrical equipment you use is grounded.**
- ~ **Inspect electrical cords before each use.**
- ~ **Check clearance of overhead power lines when operating tall equipment or with outdoor ladder work.**

### OTHER HELPFUL SAFETY TIPS-

- Always check the amount of clearance when working outdoors with ladders, certain equipment, like front-end loaders, fold-up disks, cultivators or grain augers.  
*Don't use metal ladders around power lines!*
- Never overload circuits or outlets.
- Be sure that the equipment you use is grounded or double insulated. Be sure that the plugs are three-pronged (1 for the ground).
- Never use a damaged extension cord.
- If you need an extension cord for power tools or heavy equipment, be sure to use a heavy duty cord. Use weatherproof cords when working outside. Cords with built-in Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) is the recommended type to use when working in wet areas.
- Keep your work area clean- keep oily rags, papers, sawdust or other potentially flammable materials away that can easily burn.
- Don't perform electrical repairs yourself. A trained electrical technician is qualified to make these repairs.
- Refrain from laying extension cords in walkways, aisles or roadways where they can get run over and damaged.

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY-

In case of an electrical shock:

- If you can do it safely, shut the power off.
- If you can't shut the power off and you need to move an injured person away from the wire, use a long wooden object- not your hands.
- Immediately call for medical help.
- If your tractor comes in contact with an overhead power line, jump off. Get as far away as possible. Don't touch the tractor and the ground at the same time and don't get back on the tractor.

### DON'T:

- ~ **Ever touch a downed power line.**
- ~ **Overload circuits or put anything but a plug in an outlet.**
- ~ **Use a household -type cord to operate power tools or heavy equipment.**

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***SAFETY RULES ARE THE BEST TOOLS!!***

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**DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT!!**