

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

November 5, 2018



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND  
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Power Lines

Every year 62 farm workers in the U.S. are electrocuted. The most common causes are portable grain augers, tractors with front end loaders, oversized wagons, large combines, fold-up cultivators, irrigation pipe and other tall equipment that contact overhead power lines.

- ✓ Watch out for overhead electrical lines.
- ✓ Know where they are located.
- ✓ Treat all overhead power lines as though they can kill you.
- ✓ Keep all tall equipment and irrigation pipes away from overhead lines.

## Power Line Safety Applies to Everybody!

- ⚡ Consider every wire on the ground to be energized and dangerous. Most people do not know the difference between telephone lines and power lines. To be safe, stay away from both.
- ⚡ Never touch downed power lines with other objects, such as brooms, boards, limbs or plastic materials. Only qualified electric utility workers should attempt to move downed power lines.
- ⚡ Never touch anything (cars, fences, people, etc.) that is in contact with a power line. Call 911.
- ⚡ If you see downed lines and the ground is wet or has standing water, do not go outside.
- ⚡ Don't touch anything, people included, that has come in contact with power lines.
- ⚡ Never drive over downed power lines. Even if they're not energized, they can get tangled in your vehicle.
- ⚡ Do not attempt to cut or remove a tree that is, or could become, entangled with power lines. Contact your power company for assistance.
- ⚡ Call your local 811 utility locator prior to digging to avoid unexpectedly striking an underground electrical line or any other utility.

## What to Do If Your Vehicle or Equipment Crashes into a Utility Pole?

If a power line falls onto your vehicle or equipment and there is **NO fire** ...

Your safest option is to stay inside until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach ground. You are safe inside the vehicle but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

If a power line falls onto your vehicle or equipment and there **IS A FIRE** ...

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire. to exit safely:

- \* Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- \* Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 feet away from the vehicle. The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.



For more info contact – Leslie Woolington  
**MAFES /MSU-EXTENSION**  
**Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control**  
(662) 325-3204

Sources:  
<http://www.4county.org/business/business-safety-tips/>  
<http://nasdonline.org/7318/d002522/agriculture-electrocutions-in-the-united-states.html>  
[https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Electricity/Powerlines\\_and\\_Cables/Overhead\\_Power\\_Lines/](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Electricity/Powerlines_and_Cables/Overhead_Power_Lines/)