

INDUSTRY WIDE LABOR-MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

SAFETY BULLETIN #23

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH PORTABLE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

"ADDENDUM A" – POWER LINE DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

AVOID POWER LINES. This includes, but is not limited to, the placement of equipment such as ladders, scaffold, booms, forklifts, aerial lifts, sets, cranes or other rigging.

At a minimum, when working in California follow California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2946, and Tables 1 and/or 2 below. Please note the difference of activities allowed in the two tables.

Table 1 - California

General Clearances Required from Energized Overhead High-Voltage Conductors

The operation, erection, handling or transportation of tools, machinery, materials, structures, scaffolds, or any other activity where any parts of the above or any part of an employee's body will come closer than the minimum clearances from energized overhead lines as set forth in Table 1 shall be prohibited.

Nominal Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Required Clearance (Feet)
600.....50,000	6
over 50,000.....345,000	10
over 345,000.....750,000	16
over 750,000.....1,000,000	20

Table 2 - California

Boom-type Lifting or Hoisting Equipment Clearances Required from Energized Overhead High-Voltage Lines

Boom-type lifting or hoisting equipment: The erection, operation, or dismantling of any boom-type lifting or hoisting equipment, or any part thereof, closer than the minimum clearances from energized overhead high-voltage lines set forth in Table 2 shall be prohibited.

Nominal Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Required Clearance (Feet)
600.....50,000	10
over 50,000.....75,000	11
over 75,000.....125,000	13
over 125,000.....175,000	15
over 175,000.....250,000	17
over 250,000.....370,000	21
over 370,000.....550,000	27
over 550,000.....1,000,000	42

When working outside of California in the United States, follow the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910, Section 333, and follow Table 3 below, unless the state in which you are working has separate standards, which can be accessed on the state's OSHA website. Production should always consult the proper authority (federal and/or state) to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

Table 3 – Federal

Federal Clearances Required When Working On or Near Exposed Energized Parts

When an unqualified person is working in an elevated position near overhead lines, the location shall be such that the person and the longest conductive object he or she may contact cannot come closer to any unguarded, energized overhead line than the following distances:

Nominal Voltage (Phase to Phase)	Minimum Required Clearance (Feet)
50,000 or below	10
over 50,000	10 feet plus 4 inches for every 10,000 volts over 50,000 volts

Your employer may choose to set greater clearance requirements than listed above. If there are questions or concerns, consult with your studio safety representative for more information.