

IDENTIFYING & AVOIDING ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

A survey of the farm should be conducted to identify hazards posed by the locations of overhead electrical lines. All hazards should be identified and documented for future reference. Inform your workers of any electrical hazards and instruct them on how to move grain augers and other pieces of equipment safely in these hazardous areas. Augers or equipment that can be raised or lowered should always be in the lowered position when being moved.



General Electrical Safety Precautions:

- Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call the electric utility company to report fallen electrical lines.
- Stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from overhead wires during cleanup and other activities. If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Call or ask someone to call the local electric utility company and emergency services.
- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.
- Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that has gotten wet before energizing it.
- If working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Always use caution when working near electricity
- Inspect areas for electrical hazards such as exposed wires and damaged electrical boxes and call the local utility service to locate underground wires.
- Inspect wires and plugs before each use. Repair or replace damaged wires. DO not tape over gashes in wires and do not splice wires.
- Use only double-insulated power tools or equipment with three prong plugs. Don't use equipment with broken plugs and stop using a tool immediately if a tingling sensation is felt while using it.
- If someone receives an electrical shock while using faulty equipment, call for help immediately. Stop the flow of electricity in the victim's body by disconnecting or de-energizing the circuit if the victim is unable to pull away from the current source. Do not try to remove the victim from the current source. Touching the victim could cause the rescuer to be shocked as well.