## Mechanical Operations Near Energized Lines

1. **Purpose**

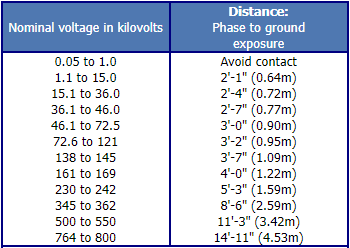
The purpose of this program is to provide information to all employees who may find themselves working in an area where others may be operating equipment in close proximity to energized lines. It is important to be informed of others and the potential hazards that may occur.

1. **Scope**

This program applies to all employees, temporary employees and contractors. When work is performed on a non-owned or operated site, the operator’s program shall take precedence, however, this document covers company employees and contractors and shall be used on owned premises, or when an operator’s program doesn’t exist or is less stringent.

1. **Requirements**

Minimum approach distances that mechanical equipment is operated, so the minimum approach distances of Table R-6 through Table R-10 are maintained, unless operated by a qualified employee. Mechanical equipment shall be operated so that the minimum approach distances of Table R-6 through Table R-10 are maintained from exposed energized lines and equipment. However, the insulated portion of an aerial lift operated by a qualified employee in the lift is exempt from this requirement. See Tables in CFR 1910.269.



1. **Protection from Hazards**

Employees will be protected from hazards that might arise from equipment contact with the energized lines. Each employee shall be protected from hazards that might arise from equipment contact with the energized lines. The measures used shall ensure that employees will not be exposed to hazardous differences in potential unless a qualified person can demonstrate that the methods in use protect each employee from the hazards that might arise if the equipment contacts the energized line.

1. **Mechanical Equipment Load Limits**

Mechanical equipment load limits/ratings are adhered to. "Applied loads." Mechanical equipment used to lift or move lines or other material shall be used within its maximum load rating and other design limitations for the conditions under which the work is being performed.

1. **Insulating Material**

The energized line(s) shall be covered with insulating material that will withstand the type of contact that might be made during the operation. The energized lines exposed to contact shall be covered with insulating protective material that will withstand the type of contact that might be made during the operation.

1. **Shift Inspections**

Critical components of mechanical elevating and rotating equipment are inspected prior to use on each shift. The critical safety components of mechanical elevating and rotating equipment shall receive a thorough visual inspection before use on each shift. Note: Critical safety components of mechanical elevating and rotating equipment are components whose failure would result in a free fall or free rotation of the boom.

1. **Obstructed Views**

Vehicles with obstructed views to the rear have a spotter or reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level. No motor vehicle or earthmoving or compacting equipment having an obstructed view to the rear may be operated on off-highway jobsites where any employee is exposed to the hazards created by the moving vehicle, unless:

* The vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level, or
* The vehicle is backed up only when a designated employee signals that it is safe to do so.

1. **Designated Spotter**

A designated employee (spotter) shall observe the approach distances and provide timely warning to the operator if approach distances are compromised. A designated employee other than the equipment operator shall observe the approach distance to exposed lines and equipment and give timely warnings before the minimum approach distance required by paragraph (p)(4)(i) of CFR 1910.269 is reached.

1. **Training**

* Employees will receive training on the contents of this procedure before performing any work on or near energized lines.
* Training shall be documented and retained in the worker’s training file.