



TOOLBOX

SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 32 - No 3 SCAFFOLDS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINES

An estimated 2.3 million construction workers, or 65% of the construction industry, work on scaffolds daily. Scaffolds are the cause of many injuries or deaths when they are not properly erected, maintained and regularly inspected by a competent person. Some of the problems overlooked are: missing guardrails; no toe boards; inadequate planking; no safe means of access or egress; no base plates or mudsills.

But the deadliest of them all is erecting scaffolds adjacent to power lines, since this presents a danger to everyone working on the scaffold. The voltage carried in these power lines can quickly kill any worker who is in contact with the energized metal of the scaffold.

A competent person must supervise when erecting, maintaining or disassembling a scaffold. He must remember he takes responsibility for all scaffold operations and its compliance with all OSHA standards.

It is more cost effective to work safely.



1926.451(f)(6)

The clearance between scaffolds and power lines shall be as follows: Scaffolds shall not be erected, used, dismantled, altered or moved such that they or any conductive material on them might come closer to exposed and energized power lines than as follows: 300 watts to 50kv must have a minimum of 10 feet

VOLTAGE	MINIMUM DISTANCE	ALTERNATIVES
Less than 300 volts	3 feet (0.9 meters)	
300 volts to 50 kv	10 feet (3.1 meters)	
More than 50 kv	10 feet (3.1 m) plus 0.4" for each 1 kv over 50 kv	2 times the length of the line insulator, but never less than 10 ft

A publication of **ESC Safety Consultants, Inc.** - P. O. Box 709 - DeSoto, Texas 75123 - 1-800-327-1516

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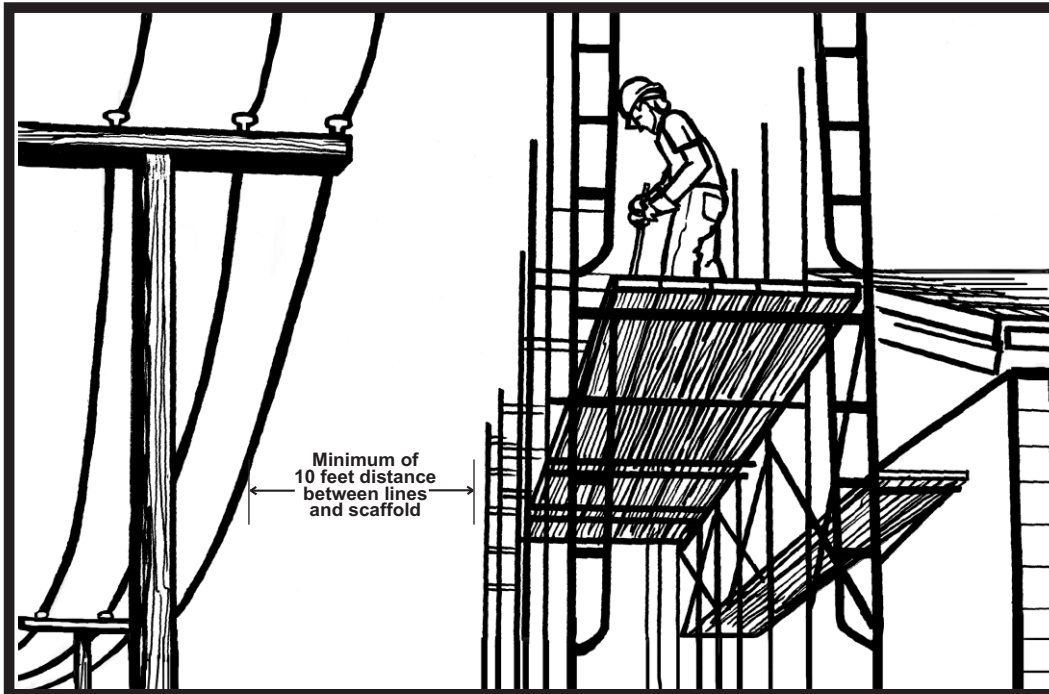
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