



# TOOLBOX TALKS

## Electrical Safety—Toolbox Talk # 5

### *Working Near High Voltage Energized Electrical Lines*

*[Presenter to ask the following questions and give time for answers.]*

**What are the hazards?** Bodily contact with electricity

**What are the results?** Electrocution, shock, fire, burns, falls or death

**What should we look for?** Overhead service lines, temporary service feeds to the construction project

*[Presenter to ask the following question and ensure every item is covered.]*

**How do we prevent these results?**

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from energized powerlines
- Never use metal ladders while working near energized electrical lines
- Pay particular attention to the location of overhead powerlines when setting up ladders, scaffolding, and/or work platforms



*[Presenter to ask the following questions about this site and ensure every item is covered.]*

**Let's talk about this site now.**

- Where are the overhead powerlines on this site? Service drops to the project? Feeds for temporary electrical cabinets?
- Do you have to work in close proximity to the source? Can the line be de-energized or insulated?
- How do you know if an electrical line is energized or creates a hazard? Unless it is verified, always assume lines are energized. **STAY AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY. ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS**

*This information has been developed by OSHA and its partners with the intent to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. This information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards.*

