

FARMING SAFELY AROUND ELECTRICITY

As a farmer, your “office” environment is certainly enviable. But the risks you face working around high-voltage transmission systems shouldn’t be taken lightly.

Complex infrastructure—composed of towers, poles, lines and substations—delivers power to your community. To achieve this, transmission lines often run through private property.

It’s important that all those who live and work on farms know the risks associated with electrical power lines—and how to avoid them by practicing simple safety measures.

WORKING AROUND TRANSMISSION TOWERS, LINES AND GUY-WIRES

When working on your farm, be aware of the height of your equipment—ladders, poles and vehicles—and the location of any overhead lines or guy-wires to maintain a safe distance between them.

Be particularly cautious around guy-wires that stabilize power poles: snagging these wires can damage equipment, as well as cause severe injuries and power outages.

If your vehicle makes contact with a power line, remain inside until you have moved a safe distance from the line. If you damage or break a guy-wire or tower, or notice that another vehicle has done so, please call 877-ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829). If someone is injured by a piece of electrical equipment, **call 911 and inform the operator that it is an electrical emergency.**

Note: non-metallic materials such as hay, lumber, tree limbs, and some tires can conduct electricity.

SPRING PLANTING SAFETY

During spring planting season, review and adhere to all planter guides. Keep machinery a safe distance from power lines (pay particular attention to extended arms on farm equipment).

FALL HARVEST SAFETY

During fall harvest, pay particular attention to augers and extended arms on farm equipment to make sure you allow plenty of clearance around power lines.



STAY CLEAR OF

- Electric power structures
- Overhead wires
- Guy-wires that stabilize power poles

IF YOU SEE A DOWNED WIRE, CALL 911

Always assume a downed wire is live. Keep yourself and others away until emergency workers arrive.

ABOUT ITC

ITC’s investments in power transmission infrastructure lower electricity costs, improve service reliability and safety, and increase economic activity and tax revenues for customers, stakeholders and communities.



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IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS

ITC understands and appreciates the need to irrigate your cropland. But sometimes, irrigation systems have compatibility implications for the safe and reliable operation of ITC transmission lines on easements or fee-owned property, and the safety and business interests of farmers and ranchers.

Water and metal pipe are good conductors of electricity, so irrigation systems should never spray a continuous stream onto or near transmission lines or towers. Our engineers work closely with landowners to determine a safe approach to installing irrigation systems near transmission lines.

- For installations of irrigation systems that will encroach on ITC easements, landowners must contact ITC to approve the installation. Each request is evaluated based on clearance limits from the transmission line, future plans for the easement that may interfere with the irrigation system, and safety concerns.
- The use of ITC-owned land for farming purposes is available under contracted arrangements. Do not use ITC-owned land for farming (or any other use) unless authorized by ITC.
- Irrigation pipes should only be handled while horizontal and perpendicular to conductors. If pipes must be laid out parallel to conductors, they must be grounded. Maintenance of traveling irrigation systems should be done with the pipe perpendicular to the conductors.

GET GROUNDED

It is important to ensure that irrigation systems are properly grounded to allow any induced charges to be safely carried to ground.

- Always ground all irrigation systems. The metal pipe, if ungrounded, can be instantly charged with unsafe voltage. If an existing, grounded system must be separated for maintenance, a ground should first be added to the section to be removed.
- When working under transmission lines and handling irrigation pipe, always keep a safe distance from transmission lines to prevent contact or flashover.
- When working with irrigation systems in dry conditions, new pipe to be connected should first have a bonding wire connected across a joint to drain off any accumulated charge to the existing pipe network and its ground.
- Contact ITC with questions about the irrigation system, spray path, or property, or with any concerns about achieving a safe installation.

