

Electric Utility Safety Cone Zone Program

This program has been established to help with the identification and protection of the public and workers of various companies or entities in the area of accidental contact with overhead electric utilities and underground electric utilities. Performing various tasks near or around electric utilities is **dangerous** and can lead to serious injury or death when contact is made with a power line. The program will initiate the use of traffic cones that are 28'' tall with a cover sleeve that is made of a material that is **reflective and lime-green** in color (see attached specs). It will have the wording **WARNING OVERHEAD UTILITIES** or **WARNING UNDERGROUND POWER CABLES** with an arrow on the signage pointing to the hazard area. See attached proof drawing. The program will institute safety in the zone area by promoting the Do Not Exceed the 10 foot approach distance while working in the zone area. This would include but not limited to raising dump beds, loaders, forklifts farm equipment, backhoes, excavators, irrigation equipment or other equipment/hazards in the zone area. Items of the program that make it functional are listed below.

- A letter explaining the program should be sent out to local contractors, various farm agencies and the County Road and Bridge contacts from participating utilities.
- Any serviceman or electric utility employee will have the authority to implement the program if they see an area of concern during their travels through out the utility's service area.
- Any construction, farm/ranch, maintenance or contracting firm would have the option to request the safety cone zone program from any utility using the system in the area.
- Once an area is identified, do an onsite safety review (Job Safety Analysis) of hazards and concerns with the entity doing work in the area of the safety cone zone if requested. Ask how hazards will be managed with the work crew prior to work commencing.
- State law prohibits work within 10 feet of overhead electric lines. Reference can be made under the CRS # 9-2.5-101 Definitions, 9-2.5-102 Activity near overhead lines – Safety restrictions, 9-2.5-103 Activity in close proximity to line, and 9-2.5-104. Violations or in the new CREA Look Up & Live brochure of Colorado High Voltage Power Line Safety Requirements. UNCC should be called before any work is started around underground utilities 1-800-922-1987 or call 811.
- The program will restrict the raising of dump beds or any type of construction or farm equipment while in the Cone Zone area which would be ten feet either side of the most extreme part of the overhead utility facility in relation to the road. Underground utilities would require the working approach distance as stated by UNCC.
- Employees or personnel shall not have any physical contact (from equipment to ground) with any equipment while it is moving under an overhead line or digging in the immediate area of underground utilities.
- Night time operations will be marked the same as daytime operation markings. Additional markers, lights and spotters would be suggested.
- Inform working entity that incase of broken line to stay clear and contact utility immediately as line may or may not become energized.
- A standard to initiate the program would be if an electric utility crosses over or under the area of work or runs with in 15 ft parallel to the work area.
- If an object or piece of equipment of high profile must be moved under an overhead line make sure a spotter has been appointed and if the safe distance of less than 10 feet will be reached the utility should be at the site to direct the operation in a safe manner. Also the utility could apply protective cover-up if considered necessary for the location.
- Notify entity working in the area if equipment does come in contact with over head line or underground cable, the operator is to stay on the equipment and that workers in the area are to stay clear of the equipment that has come in contact with the electric line until the electric utility has arrived.
- Inform the entity if the operator must clear the equipment because of fire or other emergency; make sure they understand to jump clear of the equipment with both feet together. Make sure to never contact the

equipment and ground at the same time. Once off of the equipment, hop away keeping both feet together and hand and arms close to one's side.

- Inform the entity if equipment is operational and can be moved without doing further damage to the line, poles or underground wire, do so. Do not step off of the equipment as long as it is in contact with the electric line until the utility arrives.

Area of Operations- when overhead electric lines or underground electric lines cross the path of any operation or the lines run parallel with in 15 feet of the operation, the **Electric Safety Cone Zone** should be put into operation for the safety of workers and public.

Signage for delineation will be 28" traffic cones with a **lime green high visibility sleeve** with the wording of **WARNING** Overhead or Underground Electric Utilities. Once the **Electric Safety Cone Zone** is put into effect all workers in the area should pay special attention while working in the immediate area of electric utility hazards.

Supervision

Supervisors must be aware of hazards associated with overhead & underground power lines, and communicate these hazards to the workers along with safety procedures to prevent serious mishaps.

Signage for **Electric Safety Cone Zone** delineation- Examples of sleeves attached.

Note: CDOT has a program (Preventing Contact With Overhead Lines) similar to this already being used on state highway locations and operations through the state of Colorado. If you see an operation going on that could have potential for electric contact along state maintained highways notify CDOT of your concern and discuss some type of agreement as to the safety of the job site.