

# GET HOME ALIVE

## BE SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

### TREES AND POWER LINES

#### ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION

#### KNOW YOUR LIMITS

When it comes to electrical safety, there is NO crossing the line. Death or serious injury can result from contact with or proximity to electrical power lines and equipment. Always maintain a safe clearance from electrical lines and equipment. Permits are required when working within 5.5 metres (18 feet) of energized power lines.

Electricity flows along power lines without causing harm unless it is interrupted. Keep a safe distance between you and power lines at all times.

**Assume that All Power Lines Are Energized!**

#### PLANNING YOUR WORK

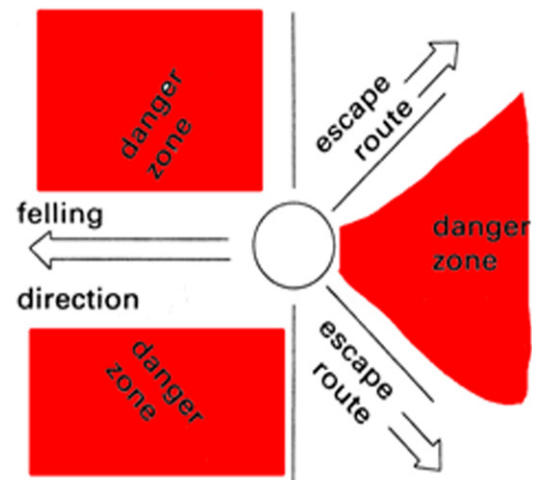
It is critical to carefully plan your work before you start to prevent contact with overhead power lines.

Check the area before you start your work. Careful planning can do more than save your community the inconvenience of a power outage. It can save your life or the life of a friend, family member or co-worker. Remember, electrical injuries CAN be prevented.

It is your responsibility to ensure everyone on the site adheres to the safety regulations for live power lines. If an injury should occur, you could be held liable, whether you are the property owner or the contractor.

#### EIGHT KEY CAUSES OF HARM

1. Kickback from a chainsaw is the number one cause of accidents.
2. Tree cutter working too close to other people or hazards (power lines, roadways, etc.).
3. Incorrect or poor felling technique.
4. Broken limbs or tree tops hitting the cutter (Widow Makers).
5. Hung-up trees left standing, or not felled using correct methods.
6. Stem movement/rebound and butt swing.
7. Felling dead trees.
8. Tree cutter being struck from behind by an object or tree.



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Prior to the wood cutting season, ensure you are ready.

- Operators of chain saws and other equipment should be trained and the equipment properly maintained.
- Ensure you have personal protective equipment such as chainsaw pants/chaps, chainsaw boots, gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection, etc., as recommended in the manufacturer's operating manual.

## CHECK YOUR WORK AREA

- **Before felling that tree, know your work area:**
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area before starting work.
- Use proper notching techniques to safely guide the tree's fall.
- Provide two escape routes to a safe location.
- Determine the tree's felling direction. Address forward lean, back lean, and/or side lean issues.
- Use proper safe working procedures when felling a tree that has not fallen completely to the ground and is lodged against another tree.
- Never turn your back on a falling tree.
- Be alert and avoid objects thrown back by the tree as it falls.

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