

LOOK UP AND LIVE



Working with large equipment on your farm? Don't forget to look up and look out for overhead power lines!



At Stearns Electric Association, we are proud to power many farms throughout our service territory. As this important work is done, there are some safety considerations to keep in mind.

Large equipment such as portable grain augers, oversized wagons, combines and other tall equipment could come into contact with power lines.

Make sure to stop, look up and look around you when working with large equipment. Each year, farm workers face fatalities and injuries due to power lines and electrical equipment accidents. Keep equipment and people at least 15 feet from power lines at all times.

Stearns Electric reminds you to look up and look out for power lines as you get your machinery ready.



Always lower equipment before moving it, even a few feet. Raised equipment can quickly come into contact with overhead power lines when machinery is repositioned.



Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.



Avoid raising equipment like ladders, poles or rods near power lines. Even non-metallic materials such as lumber, ropes and hay can conduct electricity when damp or dirty.



Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. Contact Stearns Electric if a power line interferes with equipment or access.



Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Metal can conduct electricity and increase the risk of electrical contact or shock.



Leave electrical work to qualified electricians. Have a qualified professional perform repairs or maintenance on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

IF EQUIPMENT CONTACTS A POWER LINE:

- Call 911 and keep the area clear until help arrives.
- Stay in your cab or on your equipment and keep others away until a qualified utility worker confirms the line is de-energized, except if the vehicle is on fire.
- If the equipment is on fire, then you must get to safety. Cross your arms over your chest, jump clear without touching the equipment and ground simultaneously, land with feet together then shuffle 100 feet away to safety to avoid electric shock.