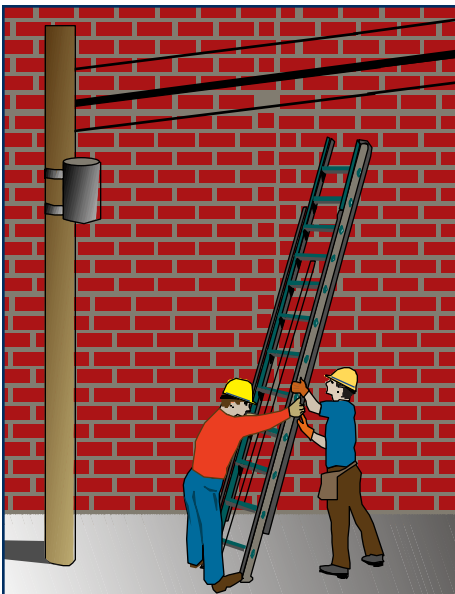


# HAZARD ALERT

## WORKER KILLED WHEN LADDER TOUCHES POWER LINE



**A 22-year-old roofing worker was electrocuted when the ladder he was helping to dismantle came in contact with a 7,200 volt overhead electrical line.**

The young man and a co-worker had just finished installing shingles on the roof of a building and were taking down an aluminium ladder when the tragedy occurred. While his co-worker was holding the base down with his feet, the victim stood under the ladder and pushed the top out so it was standing in a vertical position. The ladder was then turned 90 degrees and he began walking backwards to lower it to the ground. That's when contact with the energized line happened. The young man was electrocuted and died immediately.

The WHSCC investigating officer determined that, while placed vertically, the ladder was within 30–40 cm of the electrical line; turning it 90 degrees brought it within 10–15 cm, and the sideways movement of walking it down to the ground caused the fatal contact.

### Recommended Preventive Action

With appropriate precautions and procedures, work carried out in proximity to electrical transmission or distribution lines need not become a threat to worker's safety. Contact NB Power at 1 800 663-6272 for information specific to your site.

1. Contact the authority owning or operating the electrical utility line or utility line equipment to ensure that the line or equipment is (a) de-energized or (b) adequately insulated or guarded before permitting any employees to start work. [Subsection 289(2) Regulation 91-191]
2. When an employee who is not a qualified person [section 286 Regulation 91-191] is about to start work that is liable to bring any person or object closer to an energized electrical line or utility line equipment, the employee must maintain the minimum distances specified in the table. [Subsection 289(1) Regulation 91-191]

Phase to Phase Voltage of Energized Electrical Utility Line or Utility Line Equipment	Minimum Distance
Up to 750 v	900 mm
More than 750 v to 100,000 v	3.6 m
More than 100,000 to 250,000 v	5.2 m
More than 250,000 to 345,000 v	6.1 m

*The minimum distances apply to all objects, including scaffolds, hand tools, ladders, heavy equipment, etc. If in doubt, assume it is 750 volts or greater.*

*The accident that claimed the life of this worker is just one in a series of recent accidents involving members of the public and overhead electrical lines. The safety reminder is particularly appropriate for construction sites during the installation, moving and dismantling of ladders, scaffolds and work platforms.*