

(2) If a violation of this article results in physical or electrical contact with any high voltage overhead line, the person or business entity violating this article shall be liable to the owner or operator of the high voltage overhead line for damages to the facilities caused by the contact and for the liability incurred by the owner or operator due to the contact.

(3) Provisions of subsection (2) of this section notwithstanding, any person or business entity who has made arrangements for safety clearances and who commences any prohibited activity, work, or operation prior to such safety clearances having been made shall be liable for any damages incurred as a result of physical or electrical contact with the high voltage overhead line.

Source: L. 83: Entire article added, p. 443, § 1, effective July 1.  
L. 2003: (1) and (2) amended, p. 1413, § 2, effective April 29.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

**Call 8-1-1 in Colorado**

**or**

**1-800-922-1987**

**It's the Law**

## COLORADO CONTACT NUMBERS

### Rural Electric Associations

Colorado Rural Electric Association	303-455-2700
Delta-Montrose Electric Association	970-249-4572
Empire Electric Association, Inc.	970-565-4444
Grand Valley Power, Inc.	970-242-0040
Gunnison County Electric Association	970-641-3520
Highline Electric Association	970-854-2236
High West Energy	307-245-3261
Holy Cross Energy	970-945-5491
Intermountain REA	303-688-3100
K.C. Electric Association	719-743-2431
La Plata Electric Association, Inc.	970-247-5786
Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc.	435-722-5400
Morgan County REA	970-867-5688
Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.	970-887-3378
Mountain View Electric Association	719-775-2861
Poudre Valley REA	970-226-1234
San Isabel Electric Association, Inc.	719-547-2160
San Luis Valley REC	719-852-3538
San Miguel Power Association, Inc.	970-864-7311
Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc.	719-395-2412
Southeast Colorado Power Association	719-384-2551
Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.	580-652-2418
United Power, Inc.	303-659-0551
Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.	620-872-5885
White River Electric Association	970-878-5041
Y-W Electric Association, Inc.	970-345-2291
Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc.	970-879-1160

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	
Denver	303-452-6111

Arkansas River Power Authority	
Lamar	719-336-3496

Platte River Power Authority	
Fort Collins	970-226-4000

### Federal Systems

Western Area Power Administration	
Loveland	800-835-0547

Colorado Public Utilities Commission	800-888-0170
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### Investor Owned

Black Hills Energy/Aquila	888-890-5554
Xcel Energy	800-628-2121
(Press "3" for Colorado, then "1" for residential or "2" for commercial)	

### Municipal Utilities

Aspen Municipal Electric System	970-920-5148
Burlington Municipal Light and Power	719-346-8585
Center Municipal Gas, Light and Power	719-754-3497
Colorado Springs Utilities	719-448-4800
Delta Municipal Light and Power	970-874-7566
Estes Park Light and Power Department	970-586-5331
Fleming Electric Light Department	970-265-2692
Fort Collins Light and Power Utility	970-221-6700
Fort Morgan Electric Light Company	970-867-4350
Fountain Municipal Light System	719-322-2092
Frederick Municipal Electric System	303-833-2388
Glenwood Springs Electric System	970-384-6353
Granada Utilities	719-734-5411
Town of Haxton	970-774-6104
Holly Light and Power	719-537-6622
Holyoke Municipal Light and Power	970-854-3232
Town of Ignacio	970-563-9494
Julesburg Municipal Electric	970-474-3344
La Junta Municipal Utilities	719-384-8454
Lamar Light and Power	719-336-7456
Las Animas Municipal Light and Power	719-456-2571
Longmont Electric Department	303-651-8386
Loveland Water and Power Department	970-962-3000
Lyons Municipal Light and Power Department	303-823-6622
Oak Creek Municipal Utilities	970-736-8231
Springfield Municipal Utilities	719-523-4528
Trinidad Municipal Power and Light	719-846-9843
City of Wray	970-332-4431
Yuma Municipal Light Department	970-848-3878



**Look Up  
&  
Live**

**Colorado  
High Voltage  
Power Line  
Safety  
Requirements**

The Colorado Rural Electric Association has provided this brochure to familiarize you with the regulations concerning high voltage overhead power lines. Before carrying out any job in close proximity (10 feet or less) to overhead power lines, you must call the utility that operates the overhead line. These phone numbers are provided on the back of this brochure.

Each year in Colorado a number of accidents involving contact with high voltage power lines occur, often resulting in serious injury or death. In an effort to prevent these types of accidents, the Colorado General Assembly has enacted the following laws designed to provide safer working conditions in areas around high voltage power lines.

### 9-2.5-101. Definitions

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Authorized person" means:

(a) An employee of a public utility which produces, transmits, or delivers electricity;

(b) An employee of a public utility which provides and the work of which relates to communication services or an employee of a state, county, or municipal agency which has authorized circuit construction on or near the poles or structures of a public utility;

(c) An employee of an industrial plant whose work relates to the electrical system of the industrial plant;

(d) An employee of a cable television or communication services company or an employee of a contractor of a cable television or communication services company if specifically authorized by the owner of any necessary poles to make cable television or communication services attachments;

(e) An employee or agent of a state, county, or municipal agency which has or the work of which relates to overhead electrical lines or circuit construction or conductors on poles or structures of any type.

(2) "High voltage" means voltage in excess of 600 volts measured between conductors or between a conductor

and the ground.

(3) "Overhead line" means all bare or insulated electrical conductors installed above the ground.

(4) "Person or business entity" means a party contracting to perform any function or activity upon any land, building, highway, or other premises.

(5) "Public utility" includes public service corporations, municipally owned electric systems, and districts subject to article XXV of the Colorado constitution.

*Source: L. 83: Entire article added, p. 441,*

*§ 1, effective July 1*

### 9-2.5-102. Activity near overhead line — safety restrictions

(1) Unless danger against contact with high voltage overhead lines has been effectively guarded against as provided by section 9-2.5-103, a person or business entity shall not, individually or through an agent or employee, perform or require any other person to perform any function or activity upon any land, building, highway, or other premises if at any time during the performance of any function or activity it could reasonably be expected that the person performing the function or activity could move or be placed within 10 feet of any high voltage overhead line or that any equipment, part of any tool, or material used by the person could be brought within 10 feet of any high voltage overhead line during the performance of any function or activity.

(2) No person shall operate an aircraft within 10 feet of any high voltage overhead line.

*Source: L. 83: Entire article added, p. 442,*

*§ 1, effective July 1. L. 88: Entire section amended, p. 398, § 1, effective April 6.*

### 9-2.5-103. Activity in close proximity to lines — clearance arrangements — procedure — payment — notice

(1) If any person or business entity desires to temporarily carry on any function, activity, work, or operation in closer proximity to any high voltage overhead line than that which is permitted by this article, the person or business entity responsible for performing the work shall promptly notify the public utility operating the high

voltage overhead line. The person or business entity may perform the work only after satisfactory mutual arrangements, including coordination of work and construction schedules, have been made between the public utility operating the lines and the person or business entity responsible for performing the work. In cases where the person or business entity responsible for doing the work is doing so under contract or agreement with a governmental entity, and the governmental entity and the public utility operating the lines have already made satisfactory mutual arrangements, further arrangements for that particular activity are not required. Arrangements may include placement of temporary mechanical barriers to separate and prevent contact between material, equipment, or persons and the high voltage overhead lines or temporary deenergization and grounding or temporary relocation or raising of the high voltage overhead lines. The public utility operating the line shall promptly provide to the person or entity responsible for doing the work or having the work done an estimate of the amount to be charged for providing temporary clearances.

(2) (a) The person or business entity responsible for performing the work in the vicinity of the high voltage overhead lines shall pay any actual expenses of the public utility operating high voltage overhead lines in providing arrangements for clearances, except when prior arrangements for payment have been made between a governmental entity for whom the work is to be done and the public utility operating the lines and except in instances where the public utility operating high voltage overhead lines has installed lines within 15 feet of an existing fixture or structure after the fixture or structure has been in place at a permanent location. The public utility is not required to provide the arrangements for clearances until an agreement for payment has been made; except that, if there is a dispute over the amount to be charged by the utility for providing arrangements for clearance, the utility shall commence with providing temporary clearance as if agreement had then been reached. If agreement for payment has not been reached within 14 days after completion of temporary clearance, the public utility and the person or business entity responsible for doing the work shall resolve such dispute by

arbitration or other legal means. Unless otherwise agreed to by the person or business entity responsible for doing the work, the public utility shall commence construction for temporary clearances within three working days after the date an agreement for payment, if required, has been reached or, if no payment is required, within five working days after the date of the request of the person responsible for the work. Once initiated, the clearance work shall continue without interruption until completed. Should the public utility fail to provide for temporary clearances or safety measures in a timely manner, the public utility shall be liable for costs or loss of production of the person or business entity requesting assistance to work in close proximity to high voltage overhead lines.

(b) A person requesting that the utility clear high voltage overhead lines shall not work near the lines until the utility notifies such person that the clearance is completed. If the location or the conditions of the planned work near a high voltage overhead line changes, the person shall notify the utility of such changes and cease all work until the utility has completed any additional clearance measures that may be necessary.

(3) In locations where identity of the public utility operating the high voltage overhead lines is not easily known, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission shall, upon request, provide the name, address, and telephone number of such utility for notification purposes.

*Source: L. 83: Entire article added, p. 442, § 1, effective July 1.*

*L. 2003: (2) amended, p. 1412, § 1, effective April 29.*

### 9-2.5-104. Violation

(1) (a) A person who violates this article may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, to be imposed by any court of competent jurisdiction and credited to the general fund.

(b) A person who violates this article more than once may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation, to be imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction and credited to the general fund. A person who violates this article more than once may be liable for reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in the prosecution of the violations as determined by the court.