

EXCAVATING NEAR UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

If you think power line safety doesn't concern you, think again. In 2021, there were **more than 90 power line contacts** in Edmonton, that's more than one per week. The hard costs are very real: lost time, damaged equipment, and the cost of power line repairs.

The potential human impacts – injury or death to you or a member of your crew – are unbearable.

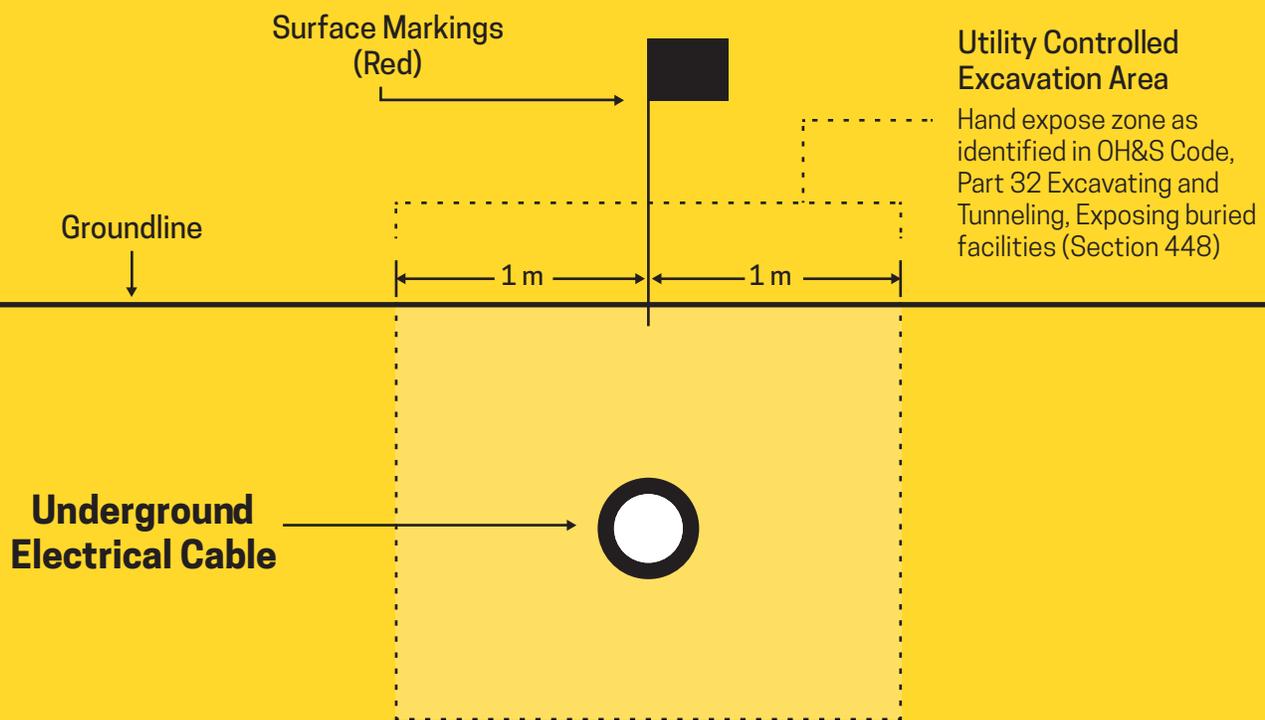
THE GOOD NEWS: power line contacts are preventable.

EXCAVATING SAFELY NEAR UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

1. Get locates through utilitiesafety.ca or by calling Utility Safety Partners at 1-800-242-3447.
2. If your proposed dig site is within 1 metre (m) of an underground distribution line you must hydrovac or hand expose within that 1 m. If you would like advice on the locate information you've been provided or are looking for information on how to dig safely, please contact 780-412-4500 for a Safety Codes consult.

NOTE: If your proposed dig site is within 5 m of an underground transmission power line contact EPCOR Transmission at the phone number listed on your locate sheet.

3. Need guidance on spotting/daylighting, please contact 780-412-4500 to request a Safety Codes consult.



NOTE: Multiple cables may require a larger hand expose zone.

LEGISLATIVE WORK REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements for equipment operating near underground cables.

Before you finalize your work plans ensure they meet Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code and the Alberta Electrical Utility Code's excavation requirements.

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code, Part 32 Excavating and Tunneling, in particular:

1. Disturbing the ground (Section 441)
2. Locating buried facilities (Section 447)
3. Exposing buried facilities (Section 448)

Alberta Electrical and Utility Code (AEUC), Excavation work in the vicinity of underground power lines (Section 2-020).

IF A HYDROVAC ISN'T AVAILABLE, HERE'S HOW TO SAFELY HAND EXPOSE AN UNDERGROUND POWER LINE.

- Use a shovel, not mechanical equipment within one metre of the underground power line locate marks.
- Position the shovel blade so that it's parallel to the line made by the paint and flags.
- Dig with your shovel at an angle and not straight down. This angle lowers the chance of damaging the cable if you accidentally make contact.
- Dig slowly and with care. The more carefully you dig, the less risk of damaging the cable.
- Use a prying motion to loosen hard dirt near the power line. Don't use your full body weight on the shovel. Never strike or jump on the shovel.
- Be careful not to damage the power line with your shovel as it can put you at risk of injury or death. It could also cause a cable fault and power outage that is costly to repair.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Protecting your livelihood and the lives of your crew is as simple as making one call. EPCOR's safety experts are ready to provide you with the tips and training you need to ensure every worksite is safe. It's as simple as making one call – 780-412-4500 or filling out the form at epcor.com/powersafety – and requesting a Safety Codes consult.

ON SITE SAFETY CODES CONSULTATION

Our Safety Codes Officers can come to your worksite free of charge and provide you guidance on what you can do to keep your crew safe around power equipment.

ONLINE RESOURCES

We provide online resources for learning how to work safely around overhead and underground equipment on epcor.com/powersafety. There is even a guidebook for working in close proximity to power lines that you can print out.

POWER LINE SAFETY AWARENESS SESSION

Book a power line safety awareness session for your team with our Senior Advisor of Public Safety, by calling EPCOR at 780-412-4500 or filling out the form at epcor.com/powersafety – and requesting a Safety Awareness Session.

