

Liabilities of Owner or Operator of High Voltage Lines

The owner or operator shall not be liable for damage or loss to person or property resulting from work within 10 feet of high voltage lines unless notice has been given as required by the law.

If the owner or operator fails to install the safeguards required by the law within a reasonable time after proper notice and appropriate arrangements have been made, such owner or operator shall be liable for the reasonable costs incurred by any such delay.

This brochure reflects the opinions and conclusions of the Utilities Protection Center and in no way purports to be an official interpretation of the "High Voltage Safety Act: O.C.G.A. §§46-3-30 et seq."

A copy of the "High Voltage Safety Act" statute may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Utilities Protection Center, Inc.
3400 Summit Ridge Parkway
Duluth, Georgia 30136

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High Voltage Safety Act



1-800-282-7411
770-623-4344 Atlanta



High Voltage Safety Act

What is the Purpose of the Act?

The purpose of the High Voltage Safety Act is to prevent injury to persons and property and interruptions of utility service resulting from accidental or inadvertent contact with high voltage electric lines.

What are High Voltage Electric Lines?

High voltage lines means an electric line or lines installed above ground level having a voltage in excess of 750 volts.

What is Covered by the High Voltage Safety Act?

Any physical act of performing or preparing to perform any activity under, over, by, or near high voltage lines, including, but not limited to, the operation, erection, handling, storage, or transportation of any tools, machinery, ladders, antennas, equipment, supplies, materials, or apparatus or other structure whenever such activity is done by a person or entity in pursuit of his trade or business.

What Must the Person Responsible for Work Do to Comply with the Law?

If work is to be done within 10 feet of a high voltage line:

First, the person responsible for such work must give notice to the Utilities Protection Center (UPC) at **1-800-282-7411 (770-623-4344** in Atlanta) at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to commencing such work. This notice shall contain:

- Location – (Description of the land where work is to be done)
- County – (Where the job is)
- Town – (Closest city or town)
- Name of person in charge of work
- Address and phone number of person in charge or work
- Type of work
- Your name
- Your company name and address
- Your telephone number
- Date(s) upon which the work will commence and be completed

Second, once notice is given, the person responsible for the work shall be responsible to assure that no work is commenced within 10 feet of a high voltage line until appropriate arrangements have been made with the owner or operator of the lines and the owner or operator has effectively guarded (safety precautions taken) against the danger from accidental contact.

If delay in commencing the work is encountered, the person responsible for the work shall be responsible to give new notice.

Responsibilities of the Owner or Operator of High Voltage Lines

After receipt of proper notice the owner or operator shall contact the person giving notice within a reasonable amount of time. The owner or operator must make arrangements to complete safeguards, including coordination of work schedules and payment costs. The safeguards shall be to effectively guard against the danger from accidental contact by de-energizing and grounding the line, relocating it, or installing protective covering or mechanical barriers; whichever safeguard is deemed feasible under the circumstances by the owner or operator. The safeguard shall be installed within a reasonable amount of time.

Penalties for Violation of Provisions of the Law

Any person responsible for work, who violates any of the provisions of the law, shall be guilty of a crime (a misdemeanor) and upon conviction, shall be liable for the payment of a fine:

\$1,000 for the first offense

\$3,000 for a second or subsequent offense

Liabilities of Person Responsible for Work

Any person responsible for the work, who violates the requirements of the High Voltage Safety Act and whose subsequent activities within the vicinity of the high voltage lines result in damage to utility facilities or result in injury or damage to person or property, shall be strictly liable for the injury or damage.

In addition, the person who violates this law shall indemnify the owner or operator of such high voltage lines against all claims including the costs incurred in defending all claims resulting from the work done in violation of the High Voltage Safety Act.