






DANGER

ZONE

Proper **LINE CLEARANCE** is important for everyone's **SAFETY!**

When adding a new structure to your property, there are many factors to take into consideration:

-  Is this a do-it-yourself job or should you hire a contractor?
-  What will the dimensions of the completed project be?
-  Which materials should be used how long will the structure last?

Another question you must ask yourself — and one that is often overlooked — **is if the distance between the proposed construction and the nearest overhead power line is adequate.** Whether you're building a barn or garage, erecting grain bins, or installing a swimming pool, Firelands Electric Cooperative wants to emphasize to our members that skipping this key step can be extremely dangerous, and even deadly.

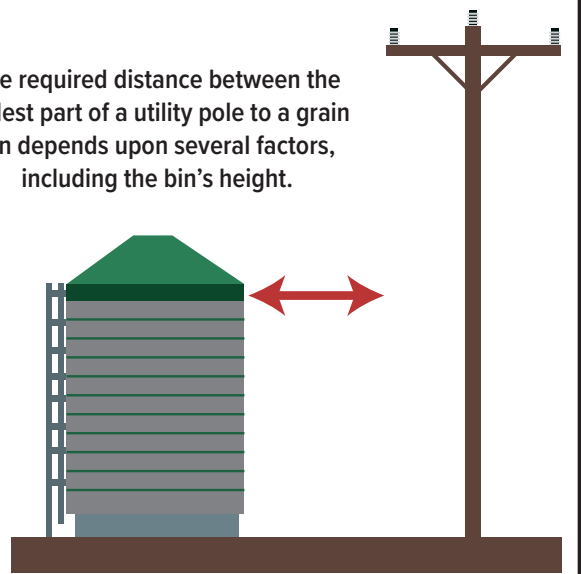
THE STATS

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), contact with overhead power lines by a person or equipment resulted in 582 work-related fatalities between 2011 and 2021. This represents 45.7% of the total work-related fatalities that occurred during this same time period. Of these fatal contacts, 69% happened to those in non-electrical occupations.

In addition, the National Ag Safety Database says that an average of 62 farm workers are electrocuted every year, with the most common cause being contact with overhead power lines. Even more startling is the fact that none of the above statistics includes non-work-related fatalities, burns, or other injuries attributed to overhead power line contacts.

Height of grain bin	Minimum distance from pole to bin*
15 feet	55 feet
25 feet	80 feet
35 feet	104 feet
50 feet	143 feet
70 feet	193 feet

The required distance between the widest part of a utility pole to a grain bin depends upon several factors, including the bin's height.



*These measurements are provided as general guidelines only. Members planning to add any type of grain storage on their property should contact the co-op prior to installation for guidelines specific to their situation.



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BUILD SMART

For your safety, and that of your family, neighbors, and community, it's important to adhere to the guidelines established by the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and Firelands Electric Cooperative when putting up any structure.

Buildings, swimming pools, ponds, and grain bins should NOT have any lines running overhead. (The only exception is a service drop that is connected to a service mast and provides power to a building.)

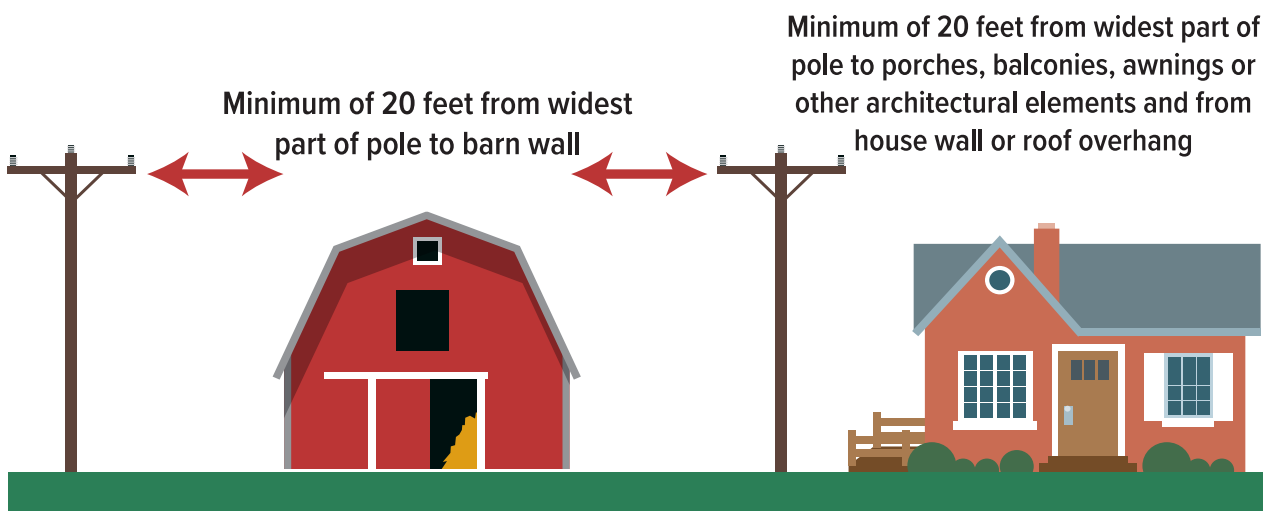
When it comes to overhead power lines and utility poles positioned alongside a barn, garage, or shed, maintain a distance of at least 20 feet. This also applies to the space between a balcony, awning, or other protruding architectural element. The lateral distance needed between a grain bin and power lines varies, depending upon the bin's height, the type of auger, and proximity to the roadway.

While graphics included on this flier depict basic power line clearance requirements, **Firelands Electric always encourages members to contact the cooperative before they break ground on a new project.**

Contacting the cooperative's office BEFORE your new project can prevent the need for expensive changes in the future.

If you are considering construction projects such as a swimming pool, grain bin, building addition, or outbuilding, or even relocating existing ones, please first contact the cooperative's Operations Department at 1-800-533-8658.

The cooperative's engineering operations coordinator is happy to meet with you and assist in the safe planning of your project. Firelands Electric is here to help you maintain a safe environment for you and your family — and to prevent mistakes that could endanger lives.



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