In 2008, three workers died while working in elevated buckets that came into contact with power lines. Following are the case descriptions for the three worker deaths in Kentucky:

**Case 1:** A 28-year-old male lineman who worked for an out-of-state electrical contractor died while trying to restore electrical power to a neighborhood in the late evening. The lineman was working from a bucket truck when he came into contact with a 110 volt power line. The lineman was transported to the nearest hospital where he was pronounced dead.

**Case 2:** A 59-year-old male welder, employed by an out-of-state electrical contractor, died while trying to restore electrical power to a neighborhood in the mid-afternoon. The worker was declared dead at the scene by the coroner.

**Case 3:** A 31-year-old male company foreman, who worked for a Kentucky tree-trimming contractor, died after he came into contact with a 7200 volt transformer. The foreman was working from a bucket truck around noon to remove limbs from power lines after a storm. After the incident, the coroner declared the foreman dead at the scene. The toxicology report revealed multi-drug intoxication.
EMPLOYERS SHOULD IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE A FORMAL WRITTEN ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES WORK AROUND OVERHEAD LINES.

A comprehensive worker safety program should be developed, implemented, and enforced that includes the recognition of electrical hazards. All work site employees should be trained in working around electric utilities.

AN OBSERVER SHOULD BE DESIGNATED BY THE EMPLOYER TO PERFORM AN ELECTRICAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO COMMENCING NEW WORK ACTIVITIES.

For lines rated over 50 kV, the minimum clearance between the power lines and any part of the crane or load shall be 10 feet plus 0.4 inch for each 1kV over 50 kV, or twice the length of the power line insulator, but never less than 10 feet (29CFR 1926.550(a)(15)(ii)). When working from scaffolding, consult 29 CFR 1926.4511(f)(6).

A HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF THE JOB-SITE AND ROUTE OF TRAVEL, INCLUDING AERIAL AND GROUND HAZARDS AND OBSTACLES, WITHIN THE JOB SITE SHOULD BE PERFORMED BY A COMPETENT PERSON BEFORE WORK COMMENCES.

A competent person should be designated to perform a hazard assessment of the job site before work commences including hazard awareness and appropriate control measures.

References:
1. Nebraska FACE Investigation #04NE002 entitled “Worker Electrocuted In Bucket Truck”.
2. NIOSH In-House FACE Report 2005-02 entitled “Hispanic laborer electrocuted after boom truck contacts overhead power line– North Carolina

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