

Building distribution power lines

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of power lines does SaskPower build?

SaskPower builds and maintains transmission and distribution power lines. Transmission power lines carry electricity at high voltages ranging from 72-230 kilovolts (kV) from power stations to SaskPower substations, where the electricity is converted to lower voltages, or directly to very large industrial customers. Transmission power line structures are tall and mostly made of metal. Distribution power lines are supported on smaller, single-pole structures typically made of wood. Distribution power lines deliver lower voltage electricity at 25kV and below, directly to homes and businesses, and over shorter distances.

Why is SaskPower rebuilding distribution power lines?

SaskPower has an obligation to meet the electrical needs of Saskatchewan in a reliable, safe, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner. Rebuilding aging power lines is a vital part of that obligation.

How does SaskPower decide which distribution power lines need to be rebuilt?

When deciding which power lines need to be rebuilt SaskPower considers public and employee safety, system reliability, infrastructure condition and the long-term benefits to the public while maintaining a balance between customer needs and prudent investments.

How does SaskPower decide where to build new distribution power lines?

SaskPower builds distribution power lines within a road allowance right-of-way whenever possible. When that isn't possible, SaskPower obtains easements for construction on private property. Whether in a road allowance or easement, SaskPower considers overall requirements and cost-effectiveness when determining the best route for power lines.

How does SaskPower decide which side of the road to use when building new distribution power lines?

SaskPower considers factors like environmental impact, landscape and terrain, road allowance location and other services like water, gas, pipelines and existing power lines when planning where to build new distribution power lines.

Does SaskPower need permission to access private property to build and maintain power lines?

Easements allow SaskPower to build and operate facilities on private property, so further permission isn't required. In cases where the power line is located within a road allowance, SaskPower may provide notice to adjacent landowners depending on the type of work required.

Why are distribution power lines built overhead?

There are two main advantages to overhead power lines. The lifecycle costs (construction, maintenance and operation) of overhead power lines are typically less expensive than underground cables. It's also easier to locate and repair damage to overhead power lines, which significantly reduces outage durations for customers.

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Are landowners compensated for damage incurred during the construction of power lines?

SaskPower's intention is to leave land in the same condition it was prior to construction. If damages occur, SaskPower will contact landowners to arrange any necessary compensation once construction is complete.

Do power lines interfere with radio and television reception?

SaskPower complies with federal regulations that ensure power lines don't produce radio signals that interfere with radio or television reception. Occasionally, loose hardware and other power line issues can cause radio interference. If this happens, SaskPower will correct the problem. Please call 1-888-757-6937 or visit saskpower.com for assistance.

What should I do if I see a downed power line?

If you see a downed or unsafe-looking power line, stay at least 10 metres away from the power line at all times and call SaskPower at 310-2220 or 911. Other electrical emergencies like an open power box, power outage, power disturbance, meter socket pulled free, meter seal broken or missing, and radio noise can also be reported by calling 310-2220.

How can I stay safe around power lines and equipment on the farm?

Please consider these five steps when working around power lines and equipment:

- *Locate* any overhead and underground power lines before starting work
- *Lower* large equipment completely so it can't contact power lines
- *Measure* to make sure all structures on your farm are at least 15 metres (50 feet) away from all overhead lines and six metres (20 feet) away from pad-mounted transformers and cables. Remember the more space, the better. Call SaskPower for help if you don't have enough clearance
- *Click* onto Sask1stcall.com or call 1-866-828-4888 before digging for any reason. They will let you know the exact location of any SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SaskTel lines on your property. Never assume you know where or how deeply buried underground lines are on your farm
- *Teach* everyone about staying safe around electricity on your farm. Visit Sasksafety.org for more information

I have questions not answered here. Where can I find more information?

You can find more information at saskpower.com, by calling 1-888-757-6937, through your online SaskPower account, by emailing SaskPower at saskpower.com/contact-us or by contacting a SaskPower representative.