

HAZARD ALERT

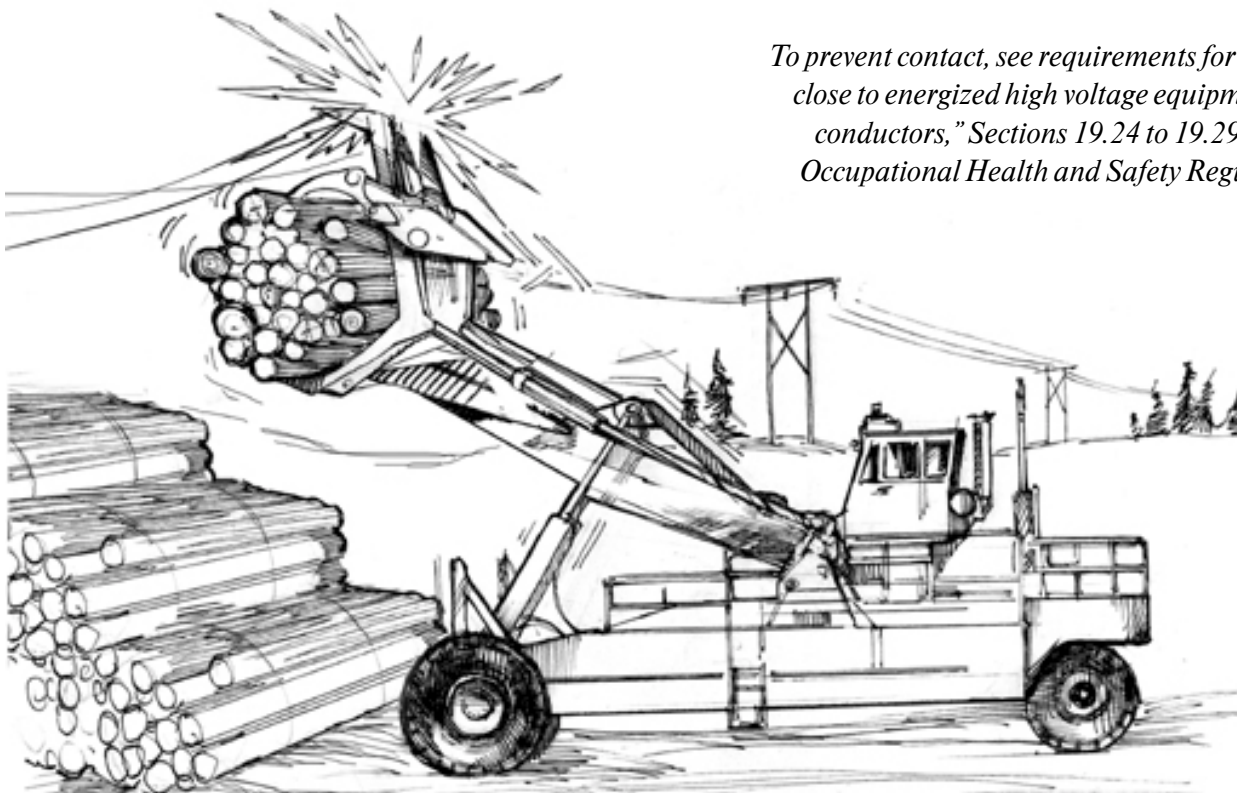
Tires explode after high-voltage contact

A log loader operator was moving log bundles in a mill yard when the loader contacted an overhead high-voltage line. A front tire started to smoke and the operator immediately dropped the load and started to drive to the garage about half a kilometre away. As he neared the garage, the front left tire exploded, knocking side mirrors off trucks in the parking lot, and shattering the windshield on the loader. Pieces of the tire were found a quarter of a kilometre away from the explosion. Later, one of the rear tires also blew out, but with less intensity.

Emergency procedures after high-voltage contact:

(Applicable to all types of large mobile equipment mounted on inflated rubber tires.)

- If tires begin to explode, the operator should remain in the vehicle unless there is a fire, in which case, the operator should exit from a safe location as identified in their safe evacuation and training procedures.
- If the tires have not exploded and contact with the power line has been broken, release any load, and drive carefully to an open space away from workers and equipment, and call or signal for help.
- Rescue workers must ensure the contacted high-voltage power line has been de-energized before proceeding.
- The rescue vehicle should drive up to the mobile equipment, allow the operator to safely step across, then promptly move away.
- No one should be within 300 metres of the vehicle for 24 hours (location permitting), except for rescue workers.



To prevent contact, see requirements for “Working close to energized high voltage equipment and conductors,” Sections 19.24 to 19.29 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

**WARNING
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