Construction and Maintenance Activities:
- Constructing or maintaining buildings and other structures
- Installation or repair of lighting or signs
- Pulling or installing pump casing and pipe

Landscaping and Timber Work:
- Tree trimming
- Pruning
- Harvesting of tree crops

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 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.

Georgia 8-1-1 and the High Voltage Safety Act

This brochure 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 visiting georgia811.com, clicking on "Resources," then "PDF Library."
Did you know that Georgia law requires that notification be given to through Georgia 811 to the electric utilities prior to certain work being commenced near overhead electric lines?

The high Voltage safety Act requires that anyone doing work that may come within 10 feet of an overhead high voltage electric line (750 volts and above) must notify Georgia 811 at least 72 hours in advance of such work (excluding weekends and holidays). Georgia 811 will then notify the owner or operator of the electric line so that appropriate safety measures can be put in place to prevent injuries, property damage and interruptions of electric service resulting from accidental or inadvertent contact with a high voltage electric line.

Failure to notify Georgia 811 constitutes a violation of the Act and can result in fines and penalties, in addition to liability for injuries and repair of damages. Read on for more details about who is covered by the Act and the steps that must be taken to comply with the Act.

**What is the purpose of the High Voltage Safety 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 by providing that no work shall be done in the vicinity of such lines unless and until the owner or operator thereof has been notified of such work and has taken one of the safety measures prescribed by the Act.

**Who and what is covered by the Act?**

No person, firm, or corporation shall commence and be completed

**FIRST, “the person responsible for the work” has given the notice required by the Act; and**

**SECOND, the owner or operator of such high voltage line has effectively guarded against danger from accidental contact by either de-energizing and grounding the line, relocating it, or installing protective covering or mechanical barriers, whichever safeguard is deemed by the owner or operator to be feasible under the circumstances.**

“What WORK” means the 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 the moving of any house or other structure whenever such activity is done by a person or entity in pursuit of his trade or business.

“PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK” means the person actually doing the work, as well as any person, firm, or corporation who employs and carries on his payroll any person actually doing the work or who employs a subcontractor who actually does the work.

**What notice is re-required by the Act?**

Give the required notice to Georgia 811 at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to commencing the work. The notice must contain:

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

If, after arrangements for completion of safety precautions have been made, there is a delay in commencing the work, the person responsible for the work is required to give a new notice.

**What happens after the required notice?**

After receipt of proper notice, the owner and/or 811 must contact the person giving notice within a reasonable amount of time. If the owner or operator does not make arrangements to complete safeguards, in-cluding coordination of work schedules and payment of costs, and must effect such safeguards within a reasonable amount of time thereafter.

Prior to commencing the work, you must en-sure that the owner or operator of the high voltage line has effectively guarded against danger from accidental contact.

**What are the consequences of not complying with the Act?**

Criminal Penalty and Fines:

- Any person responsible for the work who violates the Act shall be guilty of a crime (a misdemeanor) and upon conviction, will be liable for the payment of a fine as follows:
  - $1,000 for the first offense
  - $3,000 for a second or subsequent offense

Use and Handling of Materials and Equipment:

- Ladders
- Pipes
- Antennas
- Paint rollers
- Building materials
- Scaffolds & aerial lifts
- Long-handled tools & objects
- Securing logs or other large loads
- Throwing objects such as chains & ropes

**Farm Equipment:*

- Portable elevators
- Irrigation systems & pipes
- Harvesting machinery
- Grain augers
- Grain trucks

Continued on the next panel.