



A PHI Company

Power Line Safety for Sailors

Be Alert. Look Up. Stay Alive.





Power Line Safety for Sailors

Be alert, look up, and stay alive. These are the keys to boating safety. For the unprepared sailor, power lines pose a potentially life-threatening situation. Don't endanger yourself or your passengers by ignoring the hazards. Practice these safe boating tips to safeguard everyone.

- Avoid contact with overhead power lines by checking the clearance before raising or lowering your mast or spar. Remember, both wooden and metal spars or masts can conduct electricity.
- Consider tides when determining overhead clearances. Overhead clearances that are adequate for your vessel at low tide may not be adequate for your vessel at high tide.
- Keep all drying sails and sheet lines from blowing into power lines.
- Remove or lower antennas or flags from large cruise vessels and sailboat hulls before transporting your boat over land. Know the total height of your trailer and boat with and without the mast up.
- Don't haul, store or sail your boat unless you have at least 10 feet of clearance between the highest point of your boat and the lowest point of all power lines. Remember, overhead power lines exist over roads, parking lots and other boat storage facilities, as well as above waterways.
- Be careful when pulling your sailboat on the beach or when docking. Always look up for overhead power lines.
- Watch out for overhead power lines when removing your boat from the water. Ask another person to direct you so that you can safely clear all power lines by at least 10 feet.

Other Considerations

- Be aware of signs that indicate underwater gas or electric utility lines. Don't anchor your boat near underwater cables or pipelines. At low tide, clearances to underwater cables and pipelines could be inadequate for your vessel.

Protect yourself and your family from the dangers of overhead power lines. Observe these tips and have a safe and enjoyable boating season.