



# Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 11, 2012**

**Contact: Sharon Crisp, 835-7005, [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org)**

## **Safety A Concern With Record Snow Removal**

Copper Valley Electric Association would like to remind everyone involved in snow removal, whether commercial or residential, to be aware of the dangers associated with piling snow on, under, or near CVEA equipment, lines, and facilities.

State of Alaska statutes prohibit any equipment from operating within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. The 10 foot rule includes the highest point of the equipment being used and includes people on the ground, on a snow bank, or on the equipment. When snow is pushed under or near CVEA electrical lines, it creates a potential hazard for the equipment operator and general public. CVEA is asking all snow removal equipment operators to keep in mind the 10 foot rule when pushing and piling snow.

The record snowfall received in Valdez so far this winter may be obscuring electrical equipment located directly on the ground and identified with snow markers. Make sure you are aware of the location of this equipment when moving snow. If you are unsure, please contact CVEA at the numbers below.

If you come into contact with the equipment and your vehicle or equipment becomes entangled, a hazardous condition may exist. Please do not attempt to free your vehicle or equipment and do not exit your vehicle unless a more hazardous condition exists inside the vehicle or equipment. If it is necessary to exit your vehicle, jump away from your vehicle ensuring you do not come into contact with your vehicle and the ground at the same time. Call CVEA immediately.

CVEA is asking everyone to keep an eye out for potential electrical hazards. Never approach or make contact with an electrical line or damaged equipment. If you see a hazardous situation, please contact CVEA immediately at 822-3211 or 835-4301. To report something afterhours, please call 866-835-2832.

If you have additional questions, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506 or 835-7005.