

## **TransCo Urges Caution to Avoid Accidents**

The management of TransCo-Head Office has issued a statement urging people to exercise extra caution towards high voltage transmission lines that pass along barangay areas.

Accidents involving high voltage lines are reported every year and peaks during the summer. These incidents are mainly due to lack of awareness and the necessary precautionary measures. Most of the victims are children flying kites in places close to TransCo transmission lines.

In the month of May, many festivals are celebrated throughout barangays and towns where some of the festival activities, such as parades, involve long wooden poles passing directly under transmission lines. Once these poles touch the electro magnetic field surrounding the electrical lines, they become strong conductors of electricity, thus resulting to electrocution accidents.

Electro magnetic fields are the invisible lines of force that surround any electrical device. The EM field is produced by the voltage and the flow of current through the transmission lines. It increases in strength as the voltage and flow of current also increase. The area outside the EM field is the safety clearance.

If a person goes beyond the safety clearance under the transmission lines, or is carrying or holding something that has gone beyond the safety clearance, that person may be electrocuted because of the EM field.

In line with this, TransCo is actively calling out for people to be careful so as to prevent any unfortunate incidents. The following are safety tips a person should follow:

- Advise people, especially children, to avoid kite-flying in areas close to transmission lines.
- Do NOT climb up the transmission towers.
- Inform TransCo personnel immediately if there are tree branches growing near the power lines. Do NOT cut it yourself.
- Do NOT pass under a line while mounted on an animal or while carrying/holding a long pole.
- Do NOT build any structures under the lines.
- Do NOT install any cable or TV antenna under the lines.

TransCo is doing its best to avoid accidents that happen due to lack of information and awareness regarding safety precautions involving transmission lines.