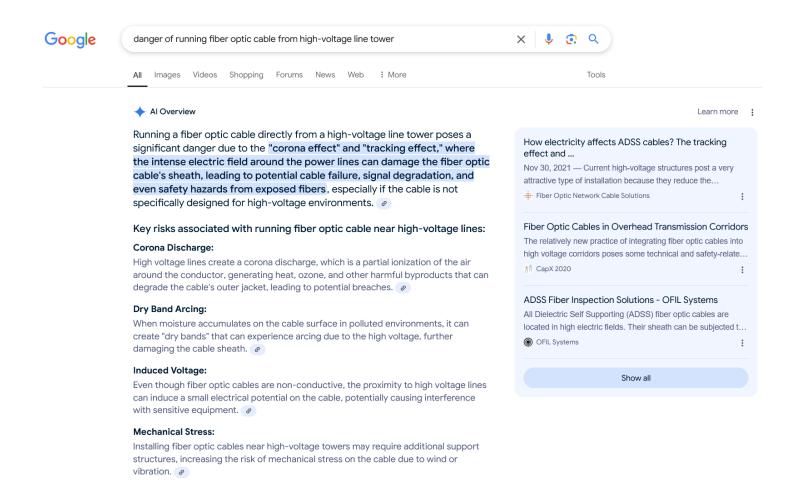
In their TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENT AGREEMENT from 10/9/24 that I received, Grain Belt indicates on Line 2b that "...The Easement may be used for the transmission of electrical energy and for communication purposes, whether existing now or in the future...". On line 2c, the AGREEMENT continues, "Telecommunications Easement. The Easement may also be used for installation, operation, and maintenance of fiber optic cable and other equipment needed for the transmission of communications to or by third parties."

An online search showed that overhead fiber optic cables also fall and can be dangerous to pets that walk through the debris field, as they may get shards of the tiny glass fibers in their paws or eyes, causing serious harm.

So in addition to high-voltage electrical lines falling, I will also have to worry about possible future fiber optic cables also falling and leaving dangerous shards of tiny glass fibers all over my drive where my pets walk.

Below are excerpts and links to the dangers overhead fiber optic cables pose:







Al Overview

A fiber optic cable can fall due to various reasons including: physical damage from digging or construction (like a backhoe hitting it), weather events like strong winds or heavy snow causing tree limbs to fall on the cable, vehicle accidents impacting utility poles where the cable is mounted, animal damage from rodents chewing through the cable, vandalism, improper installation, and even extreme temperature fluctuations causing cable components to weaken; essentially, any force that can physically sever or dislodge the cable from its supporting infrastructure can cause it to fall.

Key points to remember:

Human activity:

Weather events:

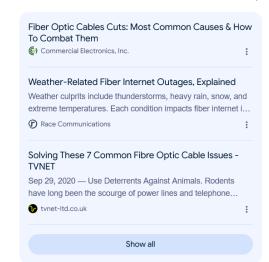
Strong winds, heavy snow, ice storms, and lightning strikes can all damage or dislodge fiber optic cables. $_{\mathscr{O}}$

Animals:

Rodents like squirrels and rats can chew through cables, causing them to fail. 🙍

Poor installation:

Improperly secured cables or inadequate support structures can lead to cable falls. ${\cal P}$



Learn more :

Learn more :



Al Overview

Yes, an overhead fiber optic cable can break open, especially if exposed to extreme weather conditions like strong winds, heavy ice accumulation, large temperature fluctuations, or if it is damaged by animals or other external factors; the glass fibers within the cable are inherently fragile, making the cable susceptible to breaks even when protected by the outer jacket.

Key points to remember:

Fiber fragility:

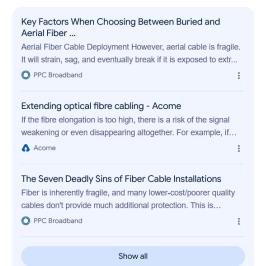
The core of a fiber optic cable is made of glass fibers, which are easily broken with excessive tension, bending beyond the recommended radius, or impact.

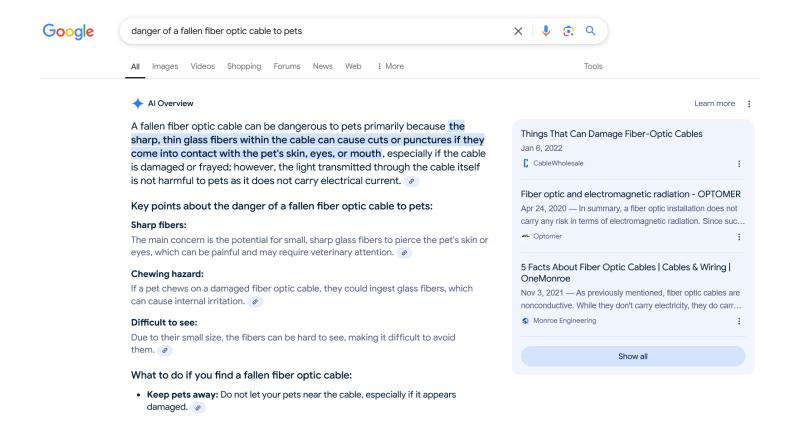
Environmental factors:

Wind, ice build-up, and extreme temperature changes can put stress on the cable, leading to potential breaks. $_{\it P}$

Cable quality:

Higher quality overhead fiber optic cables have better protection against damage, but even those can break under extreme conditions. ${\mathscr O}$





From the website, EC&M, and their article, "Don't Ignore the Hazards Associated with Fiber Optics" https://www.ecmweb.com/content/article/20888616/dont-ignore-the-hazards-associated-with-fiber-optics

"Microscopic glass needles. A more serious hazard of optical fiber work is the fibers themselves. Fibers are pieces of glass. And like all glass, they can cause injury.

Because of this, you need to handle fiber with care. First of all, you must be very careful when handling open fibers; that is fibers not contained in a cable. (Modern optical fiber cables are very safe, and pose no danger to you. It is when the cables open that hazards arise.) If you were to accidentally jab yourself with one of these open fibers, you could easily end up with a painful sliver. What's worse is this sliver may not be visible! Remember: These slivers are made of transparent glass and can be very difficult to see.

You'll be surprised to know that jabbing yourself with a fiber is not the most hazardous situation. The real danger is when fibers are stripped, trimmed, and cut. These operations result in short, nearly microscopic pieces of glass lying around a work area. These are short, thin, invisible needles. If they're left lying around, someone will inevitably end up touching or handling them. As sharp and thin as these glass shards are, they can easily penetrate your skin. And unlike a wood sliver, these glass slivers will not degrade inside your skin.

These cut pieces of fiber are very dangerous. If they were to end up in your lunch, they could cause internal bleeding and conceivably death.

To avoid this problem, you should make generous use of masking tape (or any other type of tape) to catch the waste fiber pieces. Some technicians wrap the tape around a few fingers, sticky side out. This catches the fibers as soon as they are cut. You should also frequently blot the entire work area with tape to pick up stray pieces. Once the pickup operation is complete, you need to fold the tape upon itself and carefully dispose it. Never leave this tape lying around. Remember fibers are insidious, since they are very difficult to see; especially when you're not expecting them. If you happen to sit on some of these cut pieces, you won't soon forget it."