



# Training Bulletin

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## Overhead Catenary System



- The MBTA uses an overhead electric supply system to power vehicles such as the Green Line light rail trains. Currently used at the Lechmere Station.
- This type of system uses one overhead power wire conductor called a “catenary” and to complete the circuit it uses the train’s wheels contacting the running rail as the grounding conductor.
- Using an overhead power supply offers an alternative to third rail systems for electrified transit when it blends with other transportation on roadways.
- With the power supply located overhead makes them a reasonably safe system to be around.
- The catenary wire is secured by friction.
- The MBTA catenary is powered by a 600-volt direct current (DC) system.

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