

In An Emergency

- Dial 999 and ask for the Police, giving them your location as accurately as you can.
- Tell them that there are overhead power lines or underground power cables involved.

General Safety Information

- Always assume power lines are LIVE, even if they've fallen to the ground, are broken, or aren't sparking.
- Stay away from any person/object in contact with an overhead line or underground cable and keep others away... touching them/it could be fatal.
- Damaged lines can stay LIVE or be re-energised automatically or remotely without warning if SP Energy Networks isn't aware of an incident.
- NEVER touch overhead power lines or underground power cables.
- Don't assume that lines on wooden poles are telephone wires; most overhead power lines are supported on wooden poles.
- Most overhead power lines aren't insulated.
- Almost any material...kite string, fishing rod, metal fencing, TV aerial... can conduct electricity...even a jet of water can.
- Rubber boots won't protect you.
- Electricity can jump gaps.
- Ensure you and your family are familiar with the yellow and black 'Danger of Death' electricity sign that's displayed on wooden poles, pylons, substations, etc.

Contact Us

We provide free safety advice to help you when you are planning to work near power lines and underground cables.

For free safety advice and general network enquiries:

- 🌐 www.spenergynetworks.co.uk
- ✉ customer care@spenergynetworks.com
- ☎ 0330 10 10 444

For electricity network plans:

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| Cheshire, Merseyside, North Wales & North Shropshire | Central & Southern Scotland |
| ☎ 0141 614 5666 | ☎ 0141 614 9903 |
| ✉ requestforplansmanweb@spenergynetworks.co.uk | ✉ requestforplansscotland@spenergynetworks.co.uk |

In an emergency only:

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| Cheshire, Merseyside, North Wales & North Shropshire | Central & Southern Scotland |
| ☎ 0800 001 5400 | ☎ 0800 092 9290 |

Further Information

Free advice about the electrical installation inside your property is available at: www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Guidance Note GS6 'Avoiding Danger from Overhead Power Lines' provides comprehensive advice about safety near power lines and is available via: www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/information/overhead.htm

A clear sign



Look up and look out for this sign. It means what it says.



Safety Matters

When working near the electricity supply to your property



Introduction

This leaflet gives guidance on working safely near overhead electric power lines and underground cables around your property and what to do in an emergency.

The electricity network is made up of overhead electric power lines, underground cables, substations and other equipment which transmits and distributes electricity from a power station to your plug.

This equipment carries voltages ranging from 230 volts (domestic) up to 400,000 volts (both can be lethal). It's safe in normal conditions, but each year people get injured and even killed when they accidentally come too close to or into contact with it. So it's important you know how to stay safe.

What To Do, What To Know

- Be aware of how electricity is supplied to your property, whether it's by overhead line or underground cable.
- Find out where your main fuse box/consumer unit is located and how to switch off the electricity in the event of an emergency.
- Keep your main fuse box/consumer unit free from clutter.

- Regularly test your residual current device (RCD) protection (also known as the trip switch).
- Keep meter boxes locked and clear of obstruction.
- For free advice about the electrical installation inside your property, contact Electrical Safety First (details overleaf).

Safety Matters Near Overhead Power Lines

- If your electricity is supplied by overhead line, be aware of where your service cable connects to your property and the route it takes to the meter.
- Take care not to hammer or drill near the service cable (if you're unsure, contact SP Energy Networks for free safety advice).
- Most overhead power lines are not insulated.
- Don't assume that lines on wooden poles are telephone wires; most overhead power lines are supported on wooden poles.
- Always carry long objects (such as ladders, scaffolding & fishing rods) at a low level and parallel to the ground, especially when erecting, dismantling and moving equipment.
- Touching anyone/anything in contact with the power lines can be fatal.
- You don't have to make direct contact with an overhead line to receive a shock as electricity can jump gaps.
- Don't burn garden rubbish under overhead power lines.

Safety Matters Near Underground Cables

- If your electricity is supplied by underground cable and you're planning to do some work in your garden involving digging, contact us before starting for free safety advice.
- Underground cables should always be treated as LIVE unless confirmed otherwise by us.
- Underground cables don't run in straight lines; they're flexible and change direction and depth.
- Don't use picks or forks to dig near underground cables.

Safety Matters Near Substations

- Substations are an essential part of the electricity network to get electricity to your property at the correct voltage.
- Substations aren't dangerous unless a person who isn't authorised goes beyond the perimeter fence or door (which should always be locked).
- A substation will display a yellow and black 'Danger of Death' sign and an emergency telephone number.
- If a substation nearby is ever unlocked, the fencing damaged, or, for example, a child's ball goes over the fence, please contact SP Energy Networks on the emergency telephone number shown on the property plate... DON'T attempt to retrieve anything yourself.