

WHO TO CONTACT

Contacting your electricity distributor

UK Power Networks offers free safety advice to companies working near power lines.

If you require maps showing the location of our cables please contact:

Plan Provision and Cable Watch Team:

UK Power Networks

Fore Hamlet

Ipswich

IP3 8AA

Telephone: 0800 056 5866

Email: plans@ukpowernetworks.co.uk

If you require further advice on working near overhead power lines

please contact our General Enquiries Team:

UK Power Networks

Fore Hamlet

Ipswich

IP3 8AA

Telephone: 0845 601 4516 (9am to 5pm Monday– Friday)

Other helpful organisations

Health and Safety Executive Information Services

Website www.hse.gov.uk

National Access and Scaffolding Confederation

Website www.nasc.org.uk



UK Power Networks has produced this safety guide to help companies increase awareness of the dangers of working near overhead power lines and to keep their people safe.



A guide to...

You must ALWAYS

- Contact UK Power Networks when planning work near our overhead lines.
- Map the route of overhead lines and plan the safest way to avoid them.
- Clearly signpost the dangers with high visibility warning notices.
- Keep overhead lines in view when moving plant and equipment.
- Inform staff and contractors of the dangers and promote safe practices.
- Restrict access to work near overhead power lines using barriers.

You must NEVER

- Go near or touch any broken or fallen overhead power lines or any plant, equipment or machinery that is in contact with an overhead power line.
- Drive a high vehicle under an overhead line when there are alternatives.
- Take plant or equipment closer to live power lines than the clearance given by UK Power Networks.
- Carry ladders or other long objects underneath lines without reducing them to their shortest length and carrying them horizontally, close to the ground.

UK Power Networks
Registered office: Newington House, 237 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 6NP
Registered number: 7290590 registered in England and Wales



ukpowernetworks.co.uk



UK Power Networks
Delivering your electricity

⚡ HOW WE CAN HELP TO KEEP YOU SAFE

What are the dangers?

Overhead lines carry a powerful electrical charge which can be conducted through machinery and equipment with fatal consequences.

Anyone working close to live power lines should take time to read this simple safety leaflet and identify the precautions they should be taking.

Who is at risk?

People in construction, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure or anyone else who may work near overhead lines.

It is vital that everyone working on, or visiting a working site is fully aware of the hazards and the steps that must be taken to avoid them.

How accidents happen

Sadly accidents where cranes, diggers, trucks, excavators, trailers and other plant make contact with power lines are not uncommon.

Electricity can jump gaps so be aware that machinery does not have to touch a power line to result in a serious or lethal electric shock.

Materials such as rubber and wood may not be an effective insulator against a high or low voltage charge and cannot be relied upon to prevent an electric shock.

Even though power lines are normally visible, people are less aware of them when they are engrossed in their work so accidents do happen.

Where equipment or machinery is used near overhead lines the risks must be considered and controlled in the interests of everyone.

⚡ HOW WE CAN ADVISE YOU

Contact our free advice service

Get the basics right by familiarising yourself with the site and marking the route of power lines running across it on any site plans circulated to staff.

UK Power Networks is committed to safety and actively encourages anyone undertaking work to contact us in advance for advice and free cable locating maps.

These will help you avoid our power lines during your work, which is vital for your safety as well as ensuring we can provide a reliable supply of electricity.

For free maps and advice call 0800 056 5866 or email plans@ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Managing the risks

Clearly mark the route of any overhead power lines onto plans to find out if the work can be carried out away from the lines, or avoided all together. If you have to work near power lines our advisers can help you plan access routes to sites which will avoid them. We can advise you on what steps to take if essential work is necessary close to power lines and help ensure safe working practices are implemented. Good management reduces the risk of accidents. With proper planning and control workers should not come into contact with overhead power lines.



⚡ TAKING THE RIGHT STEPS

Keep your distance

UK Power Networks can help you work out the gap between the power lines and the ground so you can check these against the height of any equipment that will be used near or beneath the lines.

Take extra care to find out the maximum height of any equipment and machinery that may be used on site when all the parts of the machinery are fully extended. Do not take plant or equipment that could reach beyond safe clearance under the line.

Remember electricity can jump a gap. Check the height of all new equipment on site.

Steer people away from the risks

High visibility barriers and signs should be erected where machinery or equipment might pass near or underneath overhead power lines.

Barriers plainly warning operators of the risks might comprise post and rail fencing, high tension wires with bunting, earth banks at least one metre high or steel drums filled with rubble at intervals. These should be robust and brightly coloured.

Goal-post style barriers can help impose height restrictions on the equipment taken into restricted access site areas to avoid contact with overhead lines. These should also be brightly coloured and made from a material which will not conduct electricity, preferably something like timber or plastic.

Warning signs displayed on the barriers for drivers to see, should clearly state the danger of death from nearby overhead power lines, reminding operators to keep the extendable parts of their machinery or equipment lowered in that zone.

⚡ WHAT TO DO IN AN ACCIDENT

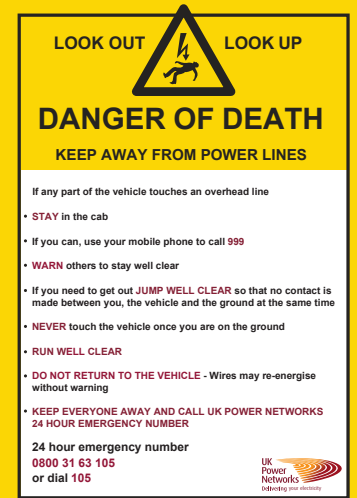
If the worst happens stay calm, keep clear and call for help.

If a piece of machinery or equipment has made contact with an overhead power line, touching that equipment could be fatal so stand well clear.

The driver of a vehicle which has come into contact with an overhead power line should remain safe by staying in the cab of the vehicle.

In an emergency call 0800 3163 105 or 105.

The driver can stay in the cab until the electricity company has confirmed that it has turned off the power supply. However, if they must leave the cab they should jump well clear so no contact is made with the live vehicle.



For a free vehicle safety cab sticker and other safety resources visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/safety