



**Think
before you...**



**WORK ON
YOUR LAND**

ukpowernetworks.co.uk

**UK
Power
Networks** 
Delivering your electricity



DID YOU KNOW...

Overhead power lines should be at a MINIMUM clearance from the ground of 5.2 metres (17 feet). HOWEVER, live equipment fitted on poles may be as low as 4.3 metres (14 feet).

**Keep a careful look out for overhead electric power lines.
KEEP WELL AWAY**



YOU COULD BE IN DANGER WHEN...

- Ploughing
- Using irrigation pipes and ladders
- Using combine harvesters
- Loading or unloading vehicles
- Using tipper wagons or trailers in fields
- Stacking materials



**LOOK UP
LOOK OUT**



REMEMBER

- Electricity systems carry voltages up to 400,000 volts. Even 230 volts (domestic voltage) can be **lethal**.
- Never assume that any electrical equipment is dead, even if it has fallen or broken.
- Power can be switched back on at any time without warning.
- Touching anything in contact with electrical equipment, even the lowest of voltages, can be fatal as electricity can jump gaps.
- Overhead power lines are often uninsulated (bare) and can carry high voltages. They can look like telephone wires, but **never** assume this is the case.
- Rubber boots **will not** protect you.





PLAN AHEAD

- Do you know the location of overhead electricity power lines and underground electricity cables on your land?
- **Plan** your work so it **avoids** high-risk areas. Do you know the location of overhead electricity power lines and underground electricity cables on your land?
- Have you contacted UK Power Networks for copies of plans showing where equipment is and put this information on your farm map?
- Have you told visitors, contractors or casual workers about the presence of electricity cables and lines?
- Check – look up and around before loading or unloading vehicles, using tipper wagons or trailers in fields, or stacking materials.
- Be extra careful when ploughing, using irrigation pipes, ladders and combine harvesters. Look Up Look Out.
- **Assess** your safe working clearances to overhead lines.
- Use your machinery and equipment **safely**.
- Trees, string, ropes, suspension lines and water can **conduct electricity**.
- A jet of water or liquid slurry can cause discharge of electricity and a **high risk** of fatal or severe injury.
- Use alternative access points and routes to fields which **avoid** crossing under overhead power lines.
- **Brief** this information to your agricultural contractors.
- **Don't stack** anything directly under or near to overhead lines.

Measure your machinery

The increases in size of farm machinery means it is important that you consider the size of both your own machinery and that used by your contractors on your land.

- Find out the **maximum height** and vertical reach of all your machinery and equipment and that of your contractors.
- **Consider the risks** from overhead power lines when buying new or used machinery.

Contact your electricity company

Talk to your local electricity company, look on their website. They will provide free information and advice about the precautions and safe working practices to be followed near overhead electric power lines.

Know your overhead and underground powerline routes

- **Find and note** the routes of those cables running across your land or near its boundaries. The local electricity company will supply this information on request.
- **Mark** these routes on your farm map.
- **Use the farm map** as a reference when planning cropping and other work, instructing machine operators and contractors, or buying new equipment.

Inform people

Include the emergency telephone number of your local electricity company on your farm map and in your list of telephone contacts.

- **Make sure** everyone who is working on your land is aware of the presence of electrical cables.
- **Train staff** to be aware of the risks associated with electrical cables.
- Show them the **HSE Shock Horror video** and booklets.
- **Make sure** they know what to do if there is an accident.
- **Make sure** contractors are aware of the location and voltages of overhead power lines on your land.





WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If an electrical cable touches any part of your agricultural machinery

- **Stay** in the cab.
- If you can, use your mobile phone to call **999**.
- **Warn** others to stay well clear.
- If you need to get out **jump well clear** so that no contact is made between you, the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- **Never** touch the vehicle once you are on the ground.
- **Run well clear**.
- **Do not return to the vehicle** - wires may re-energise without warning.
- **Always assume** the cables are live, even if they are not sparking.
- **Keep everyone away and call UK Power Networks 24 hour emergency number:**
0800 31 63 105 or dial **105**.



DANGER OF DEATH

Keep away from Power Lines

LOOK OUT LOOK UP

DANGER OF DEATH

KEEP AWAY FROM POWER LINES

If any part of the vehicle touches an overhead line

- **STAY** in the cab
- If you can, use your mobile phone to call 999
- **WARN** others to stay well clear
- If you need to get out **JUMP WELL CLEAR** so that no contact is made between you, the vehicle and the ground at the same time
- **NEVER** touch the vehicle once you are on the ground
- **RUN WELL CLEAR**
- **DO NOT RETURN TO THE VEHICLE** - Wires may re-energise without warning
- **KEEP EVERYONE AWAY AND CALL UK POWER NETWORKS 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER**

24 hour emergency number
0800 31 63 105
or dial 105

UK Power Networks
Delivering your electricity

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

Call the network operator

0800 3163 105

www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

If you are unsure of your network operator then
please call 105.

UK Power Networks

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