



**Think
before you...**



**CONSTRUCT
SCAFFOLDING**

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 scaffolding, 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.



GET THE RIGHT ADVICE

- Get a site visit from the electricity supply company's safety advisor.
- Get a copy of HSE Guidance Note GS6.

For further safety advice and to watch UK Power Networks scaffolding safety film visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/safety



WHO TO CONTACT

Contacting your electricity distributor

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

If you require advice contact our General Enquires Team:

UK Power Networks

Fore Hamlet,

Ipswich, IP3 8AA

Telephone: 0845 6014516 (9am to 5pm Mon-Fri)

Other helpful organisations

Health and Safety Executive Information Services

Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly, CF83 3GG

Telephone: 0845 345 0055

Website: www.hse.gov.uk

National Access and Scaffolding Confederation

4th Floor, 12 Bridewell Place, London EC4 6AP

Telephone: 020 7822 7400

Website: www.nasc.org.uk



VEHICLE SAFETY

If an overhead line touches any part of your van, cab or load while you are inside...

- **Stay inside**
- Try to **drive clear**
- Warn others to **stay well clear**

If this is not possible or the vehicle catches fire...

- Jump well clear – **DO NOT CLIMB DOWN**
- **Never** touch the vehicle once you are on the ground
- **Run well clear** with leaping strides
- **Stay clear**
- Wires may re-energise **without warning**

DANGER OF DEATH

Keep away from Power Lines



Call the network operator

0800 3163 105



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.





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www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

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

UK Power Networks

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