



**Think  
before you...**



**ATTEND AN  
EMERGENCY**

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**UK  
Power  
Networks**



Delivering your electricity



# THINK...

**In every emergency situation that you attend, you need to be aware of the possibility that electricity wires or substations may be involved, or be in close proximity.**

**This leaflet should be used in conjunction with your in-house procedures, it gives guidance on how to stay safe when attending emergency incidents involving electricity networks.**

## **Examples of incidents involving electricity:**

- Vehicle tipping or loading under an overhead line.
- Operating construction and agricultural vehicles or cranes under overhead lines.
- Contact with overhead lines whilst fishing, camping or scaffolding.
- Road traffic accidents involving collision with electricity poles.
- Attempted suicides at substations, poles or steel towers.
- Damage to contact with underground cables whilst excavating.



**STOP THINK  
ELECTRICITY**

# What to do in an Emergency

- **Do not** enter an electricity substation without authorisation from the electricity company.
- The electricity company emergency telephone numbers should already be known by your control centre. Call the electricity company urgently with a precise location of the incident.
- Electricity systems carry voltages up to 400,000 volts, and can be supported by wooden poles or steel towers.
- Even 230 volts (domestic voltage) **can be lethal**.
- **Never assume** that electrical equipment is dead, even if the wires have fallen or broken.
- **Remember** that the power can be switched back on at any time, without warning.
- Touching electricity wires or objects/persons/vehicles in contact with the wires **can be fatal**.
- Electricity can jump gaps.
- Trees, string, ropes, highway crash barriers and water **can** conduct electricity.
- Once an electricity wire is on the ground, you do not have to touch it to be killed. The current will travel a reasonable distance **through the ground**.
- Rubber boots will **not** protect you.
- Look out and Look up for overhead wires before you start. Most wires are **not** insulated.
- **Always** carry long objects horizontally.



## Remember...

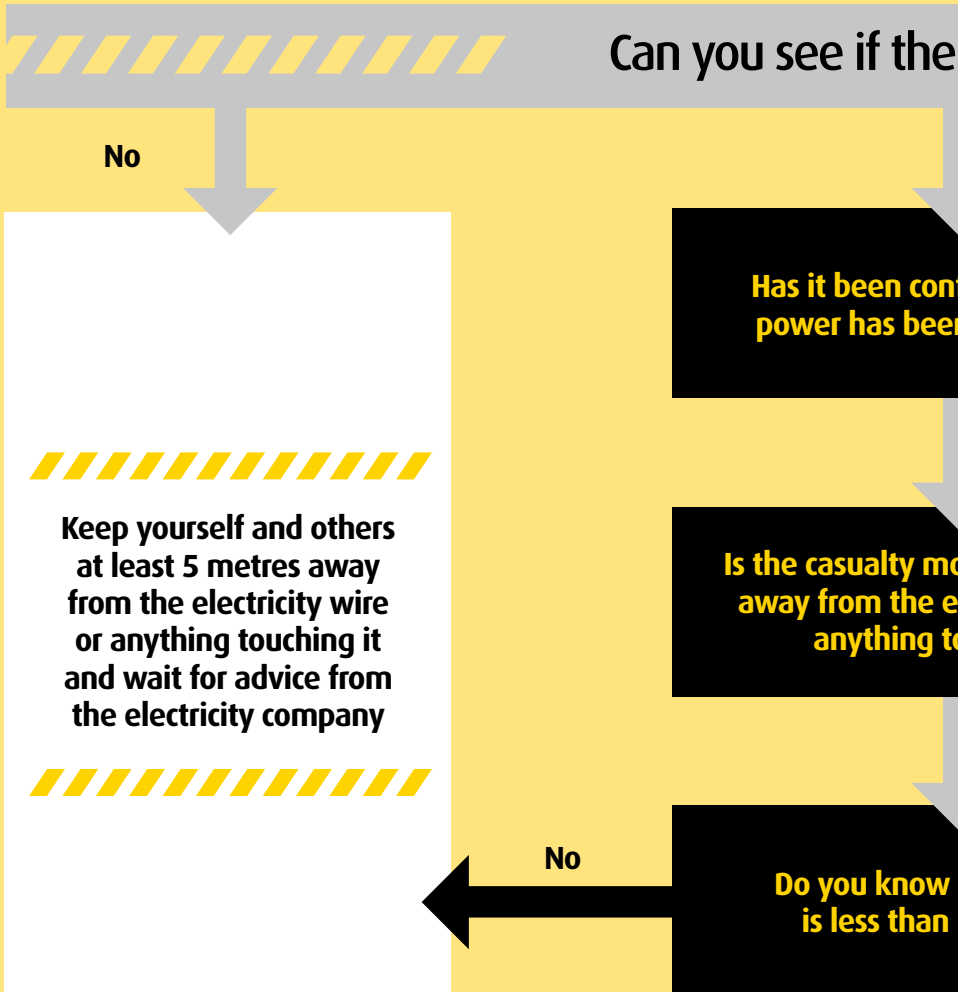
- **Don't** be tempted to start a rescue before safety has been confirmed.
- **Make sure** the electricity company has been called as soon as you know the incident involves electricity poles, wires or substations.
- Power can be switched back on at any time without warning.
- **Always** assume the wires are live.





# Rescue flow chart

Before attempting to rescue a person injured by, or in, the vicinity of electricity, follow the risk assessment chart below.



## casualty is alive?

Yes/don't know

Confirmed that the power has been switched off?

Yes

Proceed with rescue  
at ground level only

No

More than 5 metres from live electricity wire or touching it?

Yes

Pull casualty clear  
with non-conducting  
gloves or other dry  
insulating material

No

Is the voltage above 1000 volts?

Yes



# DANGER OF DEATH



Call the network operator

# 0800 3163 105

[www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk)

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

UK Power Networks

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