



# Think. Stay safe around electricity

Keep away from the electricity network:

**Overhead electric power lines**

**Electricity substations**

**Underground power cables**

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

**UK  
Power  
Networks**   
Delivering your electricity

**Overhead electric lines, underground cables, substations and other electrical equipment are SAFE in normal conditions.**

They can carry voltages from 230 (domestic) up to 400,000 volts.

Dangerous situations can occur when people get too close to or make contact with the electrical equipment, this could cause injuries and can even give electric shocks which could be fatal.

### **Safety advice...**

- Notify other people using your land of any electrical equipment.
- Carry any long objects such as fishing rods, ladders etc. horizontally
- Electricity can jump gaps, keep well clear and stay safe.
- If any person or object has made contact with an overhead line, stay away as the line could still be live or become live again.



## Stay safe near... underground cables

- Before you start any work, for example, erecting a marquee, installing fence posts or building a conservatory, please contact us on **0800 056 5866** for advice or to obtain cable records.
- Report any underground cable damage, even if it looks minor. Keep well clear of the damage.
- Cables can snake through the ground meaning they do not run in straight lines, they are flexible and can change depth.
- Do not use road pins, ground stakes or forks where known cables are present.

Think before you dig.

## Stay safe near... overhead power lines

- 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. Most overhead power lines are supported by poles.
- Don't light fires beneath overhead power lines. This could cause the line to break and fall down.
- Trees, fishing rods, tent poles, string, ropes and water can conduct electricity.
- Always assume that the lines are live.
- If you are planning on working close to the overhead lines, please contact us for advice.
- Electricity can jump gaps. Direct contact is not needed.

Look up, look out.





## Get the right advice...

Contact our general enquiries team:

**0845 601 4516**  
(9am to 5pm Mon – Fri)

## Stay safe near... substations

- Substations are found frequently in residential areas, supplying us with the electricity we have come to depend on. Substations come in different sizes depending on the number and type of properties they serve.
- Access to substations should only be made by electricity company employees and their contractors. If you notice a door, fence or gate unlocked or damaged please contact us on the emergency number displayed on the warning sign.
- Substations are safe at all times to the public if you remain outside the perimeter and do not enter them.
- If you lose any personal property, for example, a ball, in a substation, DO NOT go in to get it. Contact UK Power Networks and we will recover your property for you safely.
- Do not recover any lost property yourself.
- Please make sure your family and friends are aware of any electrical equipment on your land and the meaning of any danger signs.



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# Examples of circumstances where contact with electrical equipment can occur...

## Working outside



Ground excavations, tree trimming, agriculture, scaffolding, movements of large equipment and plant, erecting fences, demolition and construction.

## Recreational activities



Kite flying, fishing, sailing, erection of tents/marquees/temporary shelters, ballooning, gliding.

## Get the right advice...



**UK Power Networks offers free safety advice to companies, clubs and the general public.**

If you require advice please contact our general enquiries team: UK Power Networks, Fore Hamlet, Ipswich, IP3 8AA.  
Telephone: **0845 601 4516** (9am to 5pm Mon – Fri)

If you require copies of network plans  
Email: [Plans@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:Plans@ukpowernetworks.co.uk) or phone 0800 056 5866

Or visit our website for safety advice or to download free copies of all our safety leaflets **[www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk)**

**Further guidance is available to all from:**



Energy Networks Association - [www.energynetworks.org](http://www.energynetworks.org)  
or via Health and Safety Executive - [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**HSG(47)** – Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

**G56** – Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Lines



**Power cut and emergency number:**

0800 3163 105 or 105.

Our Power Up! website is packed full of useful information for young people about electricity and keeping safe.

<http://powerup.ukpowernetworks.co.uk>

