

Factors to be aware of:

- Electricity systems carry voltages up to 400,000 volts.
- Even the lowest voltage overhead lines can produce **10,000 times more current** than is required to kill a person.
- High Voltage electricity can jump gaps.
- Rubber tyres or boots will not protect you against high voltage.
- Touching electricity lines or objects or people in contact with the lines can be fatal.
- Trees, string, ropes and water can conduct electricity.
- Lines that are damaged or on the ground may still be live and dangerous.

Further information from:

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Guidance Note GS6 –

Avoidance of danger from overhead electric power lines

AFAG804 –

Electricity at Work: Forestry and Arboriculture

Free to download from:

www.books.hse.gov.uk or phone **01787 881165**

Log on to the Energy Networks Association website for industry and safety information:

www.energynetworks.org

And finally remember

Don't get too close... you may feel the force

Contact us

To report hazards or incidents in proximity to electrical installations in Electricity North West's area call our 24 hour emergency number:

0800 195 4141

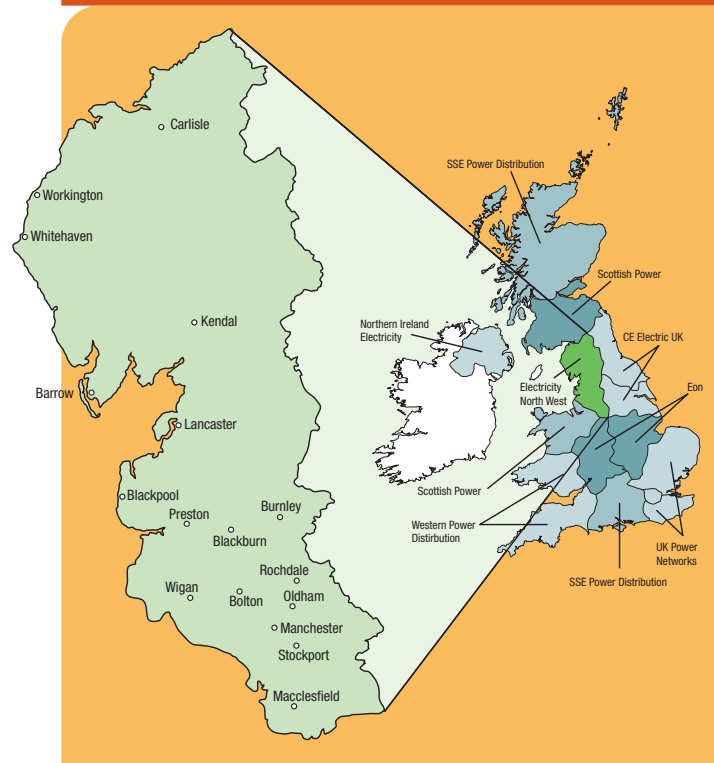
To obtain plans of the network email:

DatamanagementDSMC@enwl.co.uk

or call:

0800 195 4749 for plans and general enquiries

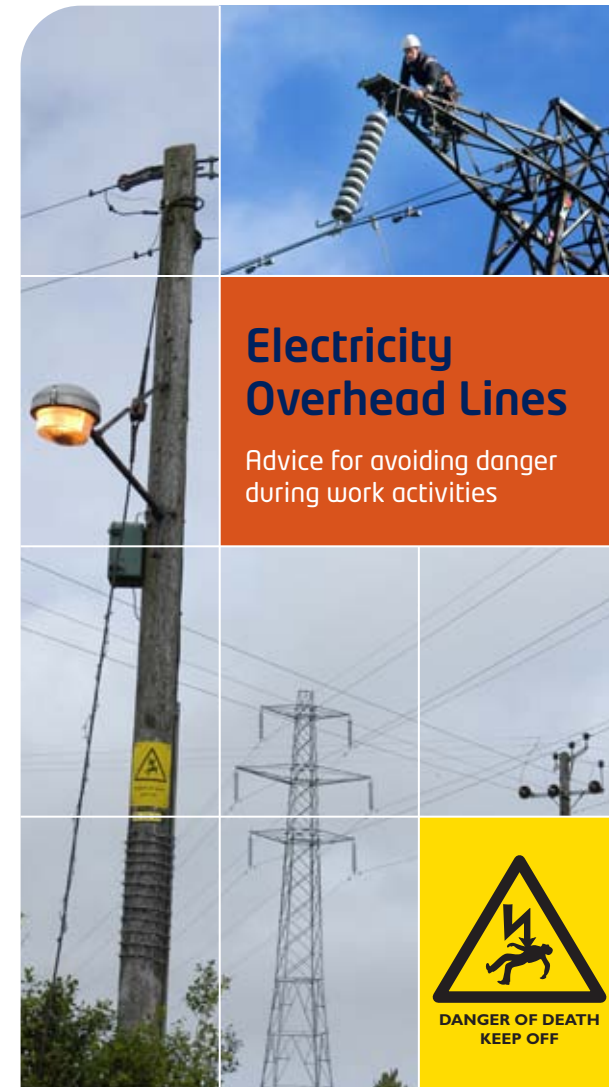
Visit our website **www.enwl.co.uk**



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Electricity Overhead Lines

Advice for avoiding danger during work activities



Working throughout North West England, Electricity North West owns, operates and maintains the electricity distribution network.

This leaflet provides a basic guide to safe practices and avoidance of contact with the electricity distribution overhead network.

Our equipment is designed so that it is not dangerous in normal circumstances, however every year people in the UK die and hundreds are injured as a result of accidents with electricity overhead lines.

This is because some activities bring people too close to the equipment either directly or with certain objects.












For example:

Two workers lifting a metal ladder which made contact with an 11,000 volt line suffered burns and one of them was knocked unconscious as a result of the electric shock.

Three grounds men erecting rugby posts at a school received electric shocks when the posts made contact with a 33,000 volt overhead line. All the men suffered burns to their hands and feet.



Before and during activities in the vicinity of overhead electricity lines:

-  Take a good look around and above.
-  If you are planning to work close to our overhead lines, poles or towers you should contact us before starting. The ways to do this are over the page.
-  We will advise you about the type and voltage of the lines and provide safe clearance distances that you must adhere to.
-  Obtain a copy of the free HSE booklet GS 6. The ways to do this are overleaf.
-  Understand and follow instructions given on safe working areas and methods of work.
-  When handling or moving scaffolding, ladders, piping or long objects keep a safe distance from overhead lines.
-  Carry the above items horizontal to the ground to avoid inadvertent contact with lines.
-  Don't raise the bed of a tipper lorry beneath an overhead line or drive a high vehicle below.
-  When operating mobile plant be aware that manoeuvres may introduce danger.
-  Make sure warning notices are displayed on sites and in cabs
-  Don't tip spoil or stack material below lines as clearance distances may be compromised.

What to do if contact is made with an overhead line:

- Phone us with the accurate location of the incident so we can quickly get to site or remotely switch off the power.
- Telephone **0800 195 4141** in emergency
- If you are in contact with or close to a damaged overhead wire move away as fast as you can and stay away until the emergency service or our engineer arrives.
- Once a line is on the ground you don't have to touch it to be killed as the current can travel through the ground or along a fence.
- Lines which have been damaged can stay live or become live again without warning by automatic reclosure of our system.
- Do report any damage or contact to equipment no matter how minor it seems.

If a machine is touching an overhead line:

- The driver can remain safe by staying in the cab of the vehicle.
- If the machine can be freed by the cab controls or driven clear without breaking or bringing the line to ground then carefully manoeuvre it free.
- If it can't be operated stay in the cab and warn other people to stay back.
- Do not leave the cab until our engineers have confirmed it safe to do so.
- If there is risk of fire or other hazard, **JUMP** well clear to avoid contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Try to land with both feet together and continue to jump away for at least 15 metres.
- Keep everyone away until advised by our engineers that the power is off.
- Keep a note of our emergency number in the vehicle or a mobile phone. **0800 195 4141**