

Substations

Electricity substations are an essential part of the distribution network in our communities. They are needed to transform the electricity to lower voltages for use in homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

The electrical equipment is protected by a combination of buildings, fences and locks. Yellow and black warning signs are displayed on the doors and fences.



DANGER OF DEATH
KEEP OFF



Substations are not dangerous to the public unless trespassers access the sites and security is compromised.

You may be affected by loss of electricity supply as a result of thieves targeting our equipment. Not only are power supplies disrupted, but peoples' lives are put at risk by these illegal activities.

If you notice a substation unlocked, doors open or damaged fencing please contact us immediately on **0800 195 4141**.

If you see any suspicious activity around substations or overhead power lines please report it to the police or call our emergency number **0800 195 4141**.

If personal property becomes entangled in a power line or lost in a substation compound let us know. **Don't attempt to recover any lost property yourself.**

Street lights, road signs and many bus shelters have a power supply. Road traffic accidents, bad weather and vandalism can cause live electricity cables to be exposed, making these objects dangerous to the public.

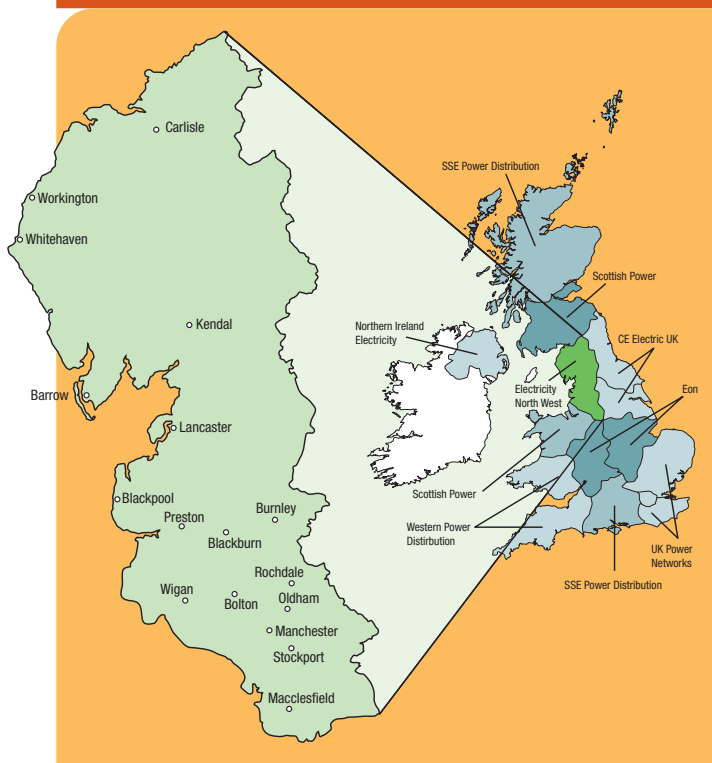
Faulty street lighting should be reported to your local council.

Contact us

To report loss of electricity supply or incidents involving the electricity distribution network in Electricity North West's area call our 24 hour emergency number:

0800 195 4141

Visit our website www.enwl.co.uk



Advice for avoiding danger from electricity

Information for householders



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

We distribute electricity from the national grid via our network of overhead lines, underground cables and substations. Your property will receive power from an underground cable or overhead line.

The equipment used in the electricity network is safe in normal conditions and when treated properly. However in some circumstances people can put themselves at risk of contact with the network, causing burns and electric shocks which may be fatal.

Accidents have happened to people whilst doing jobs in the house or garden.

For example:

- A man doing DIY cut through an electric cable with a jack hammer. **He caused an explosion and received cuts to his leg.**
- A householder was working up a ladder in order to remove fascia boards when he damaged the electricity overhead line to his property. **He received an electric shock and could easily have fallen off the ladder.**
- Whilst excavating the ground to create a garden pond a man struck an electric cable. **He was burnt on the hands and feet.**
- A carpet fitter **suffered burns on his hands** when he cut through a cable with a hacksaw.

Make sure everyone who works on your property knows how to stay safe.

Working safely outside

- ⚡ Check for overhead power lines before you start any work with ladders or scaffolding.
- ⚡ Tree pruning, hedge trimming, painting, cleaning windows or gutters may bring you into contact or close to an overhead line.
- ⚡ You don't even have to touch the line, as electricity can jump gaps.
- ⚡ If your ladders touch the line or a tool hits a cable contact us on the emergency number: **0800 195 4141**.
- ⚡ Carry long objects such as ladders or scaffold poles horizontally.
- ⚡ Don't light fires beneath overhead power lines. This could cause the line to break and fall down.
- ⚡ Check for overhead lines before erecting tents, marquees, flagpoles or aials.
- ⚡ Never attach or tie anything off overhead power lines or electrical equipment.
- ⚡ Make sure you know where buried cables are before starting jobs such as planting trees or positioning fence posts.
- ⚡ Check with us if cables are present before doing any building work.
- ⚡ We can provide a plan showing the location of our cables – contact us on **0800 195 4749**.
- ⚡ Don't erect buildings over an underground service cable.
- ⚡ When working outside with power tools always use a residual current device. RCDs can be permanently installed by a reputable contractor or you can buy a portable device.
- ⚡ Don't garden with electrical equipment in the rain.
- ⚡ Faulty or incorrect garden lighting can give you electric shocks.

For your information

Make sure you know where the main fuse board or consumer unit is located and how to switch off the electricity in an emergency.

You should regularly test the trip switch or residual current device protection (RCD) if fitted.

Keep Electricity North West's emergency number stored in your phone memory: **0800 195 4141**.

To obtain plans of our network phone us on **0800 195 4749** or email DatamanagementDSMC@enwl.co.uk

For further advice on domestic electrical safety matters visit The Electrical Safety Council website www.esc.org.uk

Five Facts about Electricity

- High Voltage electricity can sometimes jump through the air and travel through the ground.
- Touching electricity lines or objects or people in contact with the lines can be fatal.
- Trees, fishing rods, tent poles, string, ropes and water can conduct electricity.
- Power lines that are damaged or on the ground may still be live and dangerous.
- The Electricity network carries voltages from 230 volts to 400,000 volts.

