

## 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 operation of our system.
- Do report any damage or contact to equipment no matter how minor it seems.

## 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.
- 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.

## And finally remember

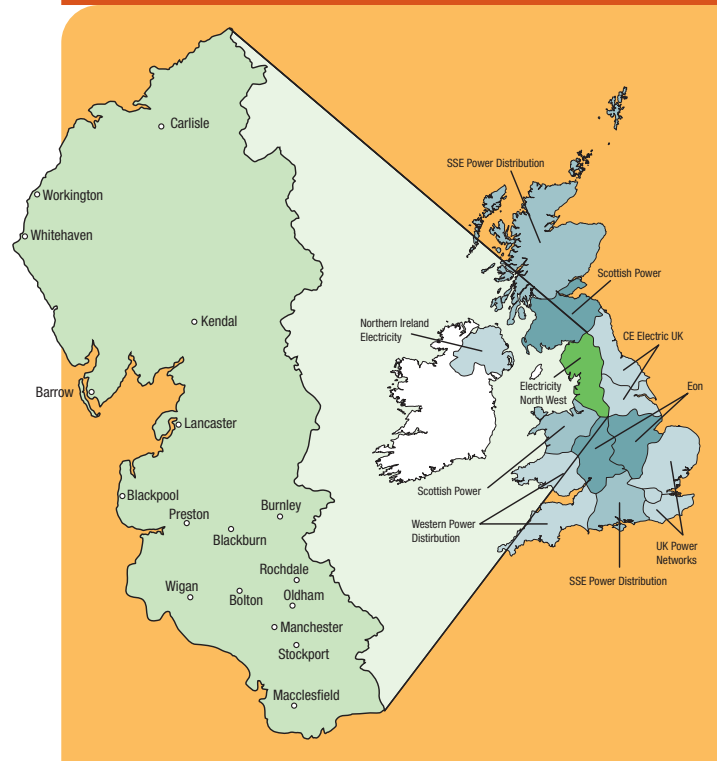
**Don't get too close... you may feel the force**

## 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**

Visit our website [www.enwl.co.uk](http://www.enwl.co.uk)



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## Electricity Overhead Lines

Advice for avoiding danger during leisure activities



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

**Our equipment is designed so that it is not dangerous in normal circumstances; however people have been killed and injured as a result of coming close or making contact with electricity overhead lines.**

Accidents have happened when people are enjoying their leisure time; for example when sailing, fishing, camping or flying kites. Dangerous situations can occur in proximity to power lines with certain objects.

For example:

- Tents pitched and metal tent poles moved below or alongside overhead lines.
- Anglers assembling, carrying rods or fishing near to overhead lines.
- Flag poles erected or carried below overhead lines.
- Injuries or fatalities to children climbing trees close to overhead lines.



**Yellow and black Danger of Death warning signs are fixed to our equipment, fences, poles and towers.**

## Be aware!

To avoid risk of making contact with the electricity network follow these precautions:

- ⚡ Check for overhead power lines in the area where you are going to set up your activity.
- ⚡ Can you recognise overhead power lines? They are generally mounted on wooden poles but can also be supported on steel pylons or concrete structures.
- ⚡ All materials including poles and nets will conduct electricity, more so if wet or damp. You do not need to come into direct contact with the overhead power lines - electricity can jump over 2 metres.
- ⚡ Look out for signs, which have been sited near to overhead power lines, which point out the danger.
- ⚡ Never erect goal posts, mobile ball stop systems, netball posts or other devices directly under or close to an overhead power line.
- ⚡ Never carry long objects vertically, always horizontally, parallel with the ground at as low a height as possible.
- ⚡ Never attach or tie anything off overhead power lines or electrical equipment.
- ⚡ Don't light fires beneath overhead power lines.
- ⚡ Don't fly kites, balloons or model aircraft near to overhead lines.
- ⚡ If your property becomes entangled in a power line or lost in a substation compound call us on the number shown on the notice. 0161 228 2628
- ⚡ Tell us if you come across any string, rope or fishing line hanging from a power line.
- ⚡ If things are left hanging and not reported someone else could get hurt or even killed.
- ⚡ Don't attempt to recover any lost property yourself.

## Look out! Look up!

### Aviation

Whether you're piloting a small plane, a hot air balloon, or a hang glider the dangers from overhead lines are very real. Familiarise yourself with locations of overhead lines near the departure and destination airfields. Power lines can be difficult to see from the air.



### Boating

Before rigging or moving a boat with a tall mast look up and around. If there are any lines on the route you intend take, avoid going that way. The majority of incidents have occurred on dry land, not only in boat yards but on people's drives and the public highway when moving and towing.



At known boating venues there should be warning signs and barriers in place.

### Clay Pigeon or Game Bird Shooting

Electricity equipment has been damaged as a result of shooting incidents. Damage to power lines and installations can cause loss of power to local areas. People can be placed at risk if our network equipment is accidentally shot down. Don't shoot or drive birds in the direction of power lines.

### Fishing

See our separate advice leaflets for anglers and fishing site owner/managers, which can be downloaded from our website.

### Tents and Caravans

See our separate advice leaflet for camping and caravanning, which can be downloaded from our website.