



Think
before you...

**WORK ON
YOUR LAND**

UK
Power
Networks





DID YOU KNOW...

Overhead power lines should be at a **MINIMUM** clearance from the ground of 5.2 metres (17 feet). **HOWEVER**, live equipment fitted on poles may be as low as 4.3 metres (14 feet).

Keep a careful look out for overhead electric power lines.

KEEP WELL AWAY



YOU COULD BE IN DANGER WHEN...

- Ploughing
- Using irrigation pipes and ladders
- Using combine harvesters
- Loading or unloading vehicles
- Using tipper wagons or trailers in fields
- Stacking materials



LOOKUP
LOOK OUT



REMEMBER...

- Electricity systems carry voltages up to 400,000 volts. Even 230 volts (domestic voltage) can be **lethal**.
- Never assume that any electrical equipment is dead, even if it has fallen or broken.
- Power can be switched back on at any time without warning.
- Touching anything in contact with electrical equipment, even the lowest of voltages, can be fatal as electricity can jump gaps.
- 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.
- Rubber boots **will not** protect you.



THINK AHEAD

- **Assess** your safe working clearances to overhead lines.
- Use your machinery and equipment **safely**.
- **Plan** your work so it **avoids** high-risk areas.
- Trees, string, ropes, suspension lines and water can **conduct electricity**.
- A jet of water or liquid slurry can cause discharge of electricity and a **high risk** of fatal or severe injury.
- Use alternative access points and routes to fields which **avoid** crossing under overhead power lines.
- **Brief** this information to your agricultural contractors.
- **Don't stack** anything directly under or near to overhead lines.

Measure your machinery

The increases in size of farm machinery means it is important that you consider the size of both your own machinery and that used by your contractors on your land.

- Find out the **maximum height** and vertical reach of all your machinery and equipment and that of your contractors.
- **Consider the risks** from overhead power lines when buying new or used machinery.

Contact your electricity company

Talk to your local electricity company, look on their website. They will provide free information and advice about the precautions and safe working practices to be followed near overhead electric power lines.

Know your overhead and underground powerline routes

- **Find and note** the routes of those cables running across your land or near its boundaries. The local electricity company will supply this information on request.
- **Mark** these routes on your farm map.
- **Use the farm map** as a reference when planning cropping and other work, instructing machine operators and contractors, or buying new equipment.

Inform people

Include the emergency telephone number of your local electricity company on your farm map and in your list of telephone contacts.

- **Make sure** everyone who is working on your land is aware of the presence of electrical cables.
- **Train staff** to be aware of the risks associated with electrical cables.
- Show them the **HSE Shock Horror video** and booklets.
- **Make sure** they know what to do if there is an accident.
- **Make sure** contractors are aware of the location and voltages of overhead power lines on your land.





WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If an electrical cable touches any part of your agricultural machinery

- **Always assume** the cables are live, even if they are not sparking.
- **Cables may re-energise** at any time without warning. This can happen automatically after a few seconds or remotely after several hours if the electricity company is not aware of the situation.
- **Always** keep a mobile phone with you and use it to contact emergency services.
- Try to **drive clear**.
- **Stay inside** your vehicle until emergency services arrive.
- Warn others to **stay well clear**.

If it is not possible to stay inside or the vehicle catches fire...

- Jump well clear – **DO NOT CLIMB DOWN**.
- **Never** touch the vehicle once you are on the ground.
- **Run well clear** with leaping strides.
- **Stay clear**.



DANGER OF DEATH

KEEP AWAY FROM POWER LINES



Call the network operator

0800 587 3243

www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

If you are unsure of your network operator then please visit
www.energynetworks.org

UK Power Networks,
Registered office: Newington House, 237 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 6NP
Registered number: 7290590 registered in England and Wales

