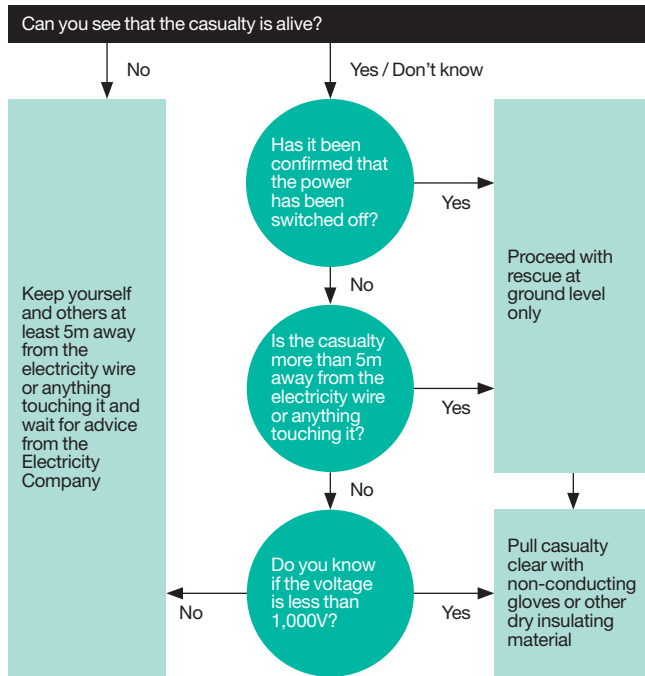


Rescue Flow Chart

Before attempting to rescue a person injured by, or in the vicinity of electricity, follow the risk assessment chart below:



What to do if your vehicle or machinery comes into contact with an overhead power line:

- > If any part of your vehicle is in contact with an overhead power line or within 5 metres of a fallen line then stay on it until the Emergency Services or Electricity Company arrive, unless you are in danger.
- > Phone the Electricity Company using the number on this leaflet.
- > If you must get off then you should jump clear making leaping strides so that one foot is off the ground at all times until you are at least 5 metres away.
- > Do not return to the vehicle.
- > Keep others away from the vehicle. Touching it or even getting too close could kill them.
- > Never touch overhead power lines, always assume that lines are live unless the Electricity Company has told you they are dead.

This information should be used in conjunction with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) leaflet, **Shock Horror** – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg389.pdf>.

Emergency contact numbers

Network Operator Emergency contact number
Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd 0800 616 817

Network Operator Advice contact number
Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd 08457 643 643

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**Energy
Networks
Association**
**Safety Advice
for the
Ambulance
Service**

Vital energy, delivered safely

There are overhead power lines criss-crossing the country. Often unnoticed, they are essential to provide electricity to cities, towns, villages and rural communities. They carry voltages ranging from 230 volts (domestic voltage) up to 400,000 volts. Even domestic voltage can be fatal and high voltage electricity can jump large gaps.

The energy network is designed to keep you safe, but people die each year due to accidental contact with overhead power lines, whilst others endure life changing injury with the lives of their families also suffering as a result.

The risk of danger can be considerably reduced by following some simple safety tips.



Staying safe

- > Any power lines, electricity substations or electrical engineering equipment may be live and could kill you. Do not touch them, or any object or person that is in contact with them – even if you believe the power is off, it could be turned on again without warning.
- > Electricity can jump gaps so even getting too close to lines can be dangerous. Many objects can also conduct electricity such as trees, string, rope and water.
- > Rubber boots will not protect you and not all power lines are insulated.
- > Do not assume lines on wood poles are telephone lines – most overhead power lines are supported by poles.
- > If an overhead power line has fallen to the ground it may still be live, keep more than 5 metres away – the current can travel along the ground, through objects such as fences or metal objects and through water or other liquids. You do not need to touch the power line to be killed by it.
- > If you need to get clear, jump clear making leaping strides so that one foot is off the ground at all times until you are 5 metres away.

Top tips

1. Do not touch or get close to power lines.
2. Keep 5 metres away from fallen or damaged power lines, AND
3. Contact the emergency services and the Electricity Company immediately.

Emergency services

Could this happen to you?

In a recent incident, emergency services attended a young man who came into contact with a fallen live overhead power line. They came very close to the live line and also risked receiving a fatal electric shock. Instead of being one loss of life, this could have been a multiple fatality involving emergency service personnel.

Examples of emergency situations associated with electricity networks include:

- > Vehicle tipping or loading under an overhead power line makes contact with the line.
- > Construction and agricultural vehicles or cranes make contact with overhead power lines.
- > Contact with overhead power lines whilst fishing, camping or scaffolding.
- > Road traffic accidents involving collision with electricity poles.
- > Attempted suicides at substations, poles or steel towers.
- > Injuries arising from contact with underground cables.

Key messages

- > Don't be tempted to start a rescue before safety has been confirmed.
- > Make sure the Electricity Company has been called as soon as you are aware of an incident involving electricity poles, lines or substations.
- > Never touch lines, always assume they are live unless the Electricity Company has told you they are dead.