

What to do if your scaffolding comes into contact with an overhead power line:

- > If any part of a scaffold structure or your equipment are in contact with an overhead power line keep 5 metres away.
- > Phone the Electricity Company using the number on this leaflet.
- > If someone is stood on a scaffolding structure that is in contact with a line, it is best for them to stay where they are. Keep everyone else clear.
- > If you have to get off a scaffold structure always jump clear making leaping strides so that one foot is off the ground at all times rather than stepping off. Make sure you do not touch the scaffolding and the ground at the same time.
- > Keep others 5 metres away until it is confirmed to be safe by the Electricity Company. Touching it or even approaching it could kill them.
- > Never touch overhead power lines, always assume that lines are live unless the Electricity Company has told you they are dead.

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 Information for Scaffolders

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.

Advice for scaffolders

Before you start work

Before setting up any scaffolding, always check for overhead power lines.

If you are setting up any scaffolding near overhead power lines, contact the Electricity Company for advice before starting work.

During Work

Always follow the advice given by the Electricity Company.

Don't carry long scaffold poles vertically. Always carry them horizontally and as low to the ground as practicable.

Never attach or tie any scaffolding to power line wood poles, pylons or electrical equipment.

Never attempt to cover, remove or re-site overhead power lines yourself if they are in the way of your scaffolding. This must only be done by local Electricity Company personnel.

Get copies of the HSE leaflets GS6 and AIS8 and use them to plan your work: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais8.pdf> and <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/g6.pdf>.

Look for the signs

- > Electricity poles and pylons are usually fitted with yellow 'Danger of Death' notices.
- > Look around for power lines every time you visit a new site.