

## 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 Watersports

## 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.

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**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.

## Enjoying watersports safely

### How could this happen?

In recent years there have been several incidents where people have been injured or killed when their boats came into contact with live, high voltage overhead power lines.

The majority of these incidents occurred on dry land, while the boat was being rigged or moved in car parks or driveways by people who simply did not notice the lines.

### Be aware

Before rigging or moving a boat with a tall mast, you should always check for overhead power lines.

If you are using a boat at a recognised boating venue, you should contact the venue or you can contact your local Electricity Company beforehand. Get advice about lines that may cross areas where the rigging or movement of boats is anticipated.

Take note of any warning signs and stay well away from the marked area.

The best way to stay safe is to stay well away from the lines.

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

- > If any part of your boat is in contact with an overhead power line or within 5 metres of a fallen line then stay 5 metres away until the Emergency Services or Electricity Company arrive.
- > Phone the Electricity Company using the number on this leaflet.
- > Keep others 5 metres away from the line and the boat.
- > If someone is on the boat follow the advice for a vehicle in contact with a line.
- > Never touch overhead power lines, always assume they are live and dangerous.