

Take the time, to take a look

Camping. Caravanning. Look Up, Look Out.



ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Your life can be lost within seconds if you come into contact with electricity.

Every year, people are killed or seriously injured when they come into contact with high voltage electricity.

This can have a far-reaching and devastating effect on family, friends and colleagues.

Distractions, routine, rushing to set up camp, these can all impact on safety when pitching your caravan or tent.

Taking time to plan, being vigilant, prepared and focused on our surroundings can help to keep us safe when participating in recreational activities.



Before setting up camp, it is important that you look up and look out. Always:

- Avoid, if at all possible, pitching your tent or caravan directly under or close to an overhead power line.
- Be particularly aware when erecting TV aerials or radio masts next to mobile homes or fixed caravans.
- Stay well away from any power lines in the vicinity of the campsite you are intending to use.
- Carry long objects horizontally and parallel with the ground. Metal and carbon fibre tent poles, guy lines, TV aerial poles, yacht masts and almost every other long object can conduct electricity.

Never:

- Attempt to judge the height of power lines, it is very dangerous and difficult to do so.
- Attach or tie anything to power line wooden poles, pylons or electrical equipment.

Top tips:

- 1. Do not touch or get close to power lines.
- 2. Keep 5 metres away from fallen or damaged power lines.
- 3. Contact the emergency services and UK Power Networks immediately.

Look for the signs

- Electricity poles and pylons are usually fitted with yellow "Danger of Death" notices. There should also be warning signs near to any electricity power lines.
- Site specific information and posters may be available from the site reception.
- Take note of any warning signs and stay well away from the marked area.
 Occasionally signs get knocked over or vandalised.
- So ALWAYS check for overhead power lines yourself.

If in doubt, STOP!

Keep well away -Electricity can kill

- If there are lines near where you are setting up your tent, awning or caravan; stay away from them.
- It is dangerous to dismiss the line as merely a telephone wire.
- It is very difficult to tell telephone and electricity lines apart.
- Always assume that all overhead lines carry live electricity and are dangerous.
- If you have any doubt contact UK Power Networks or the site owner, who, if they are not sure, should contact UK Power Networks themselves.



How can we help?

If you work or live in the UK Power Networks area contact us or look on our website. We provide free information and advice about the precautions and safe working practices to be followed when working close to electrical equipment.

Further advice and guidance is available from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE): GS6 - Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Power Lines

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 lines, but never assume this is the case.

• Rubber boots will not protect you.

To request your FREE overhead line safety stickers visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/ internet/en/safety/

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

Site Owners

- You have a responsibility to ensure that public using your facilities are warned of any dangers that may exist. You should make sure that signs highlighting the dangers are in place and maintained.
- If you are in any doubt or if you require further advice contact UK Power Networks or refer to the Health and Safety Executive's Guidance GS6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electrical Lines".





What to do in an emergency:

Assume the lines are live, even if they are not sparking.

Remember that, even if they are dead, the lines can become live again with no notice. This may happen automatically after a few seconds, or may be re-energised remotely up to several hours later if UK Power Networks is not aware that the line has been damaged.

If you can, use your mobile telephone to call the emergency services. Give them your location as accurately as you can. Tell them that there are electricity lines involved and ask them to inform UK Power Networks.

For further advice visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/

If your caravan, tent or mobile home is in

contact with an electricity wire or close to a damaged overhead power line then move away as quickly as you can, and stay away, until the emergency services or electrical company arrive.

Once a wire is on the ground you do not have to touch it to be killed. The current may travel a significant distance through the grounds and even further if the wire has fallen on a fence or other metallic objects. Be aware, keep clear.

If someone is in a caravan or mobile home that is in contact with a power line, it is best for them to remain inside.

Keep everyone else clear.

If staying inside the caravan or mobile home would put you in serious danger (for example - if it is on fire) and you have to get out, then always jump rather than stepping out before moving away as quickly as you can. Make sure you don't touch the mobile home/caravan and the ground at the same time.

Don't touch a tent, or awning, frame or caravan, or any post or fence that you suspect might be touching an electrical line – even if you think the line is dead.

NATIONAL POWER CUT HELPLINE

The emergency services have been briefed on how to undertake rescues in proximity of damaged power lines. An electricity engineer will confirm when the power has been turned off and the rescue can proceed safely.

Don't allow anyone to approach the tent, caravan or mobile home until it is confirmed safe to do so by the electricity company engineer.





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National power cut helpline

POWER CUT?

CALL 105

Or call us 24 hours a day on **0800 31 63 105**

For safety advice about overhead power lines, disconnections and general enquiries, go to: www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/

To request your FREE tackle box sticker visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/safety/

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