

Our emergency number is:

**0800 6783 105**

Calling from a mobile?

East Midlands

**0330 123 5009**

West Midlands

**0330 123 5008**

South Wales

**0330 123 5002**

South West

**0330 123 5001**

For all NON EMERGENCY  
General Enquiries please  
phone:

Midlands

**0845 724 0240**

South Wales

**0845 601 3341**

South West

**0845 601 2989**

## OTHER INFORMATION

Additional and detailed information on this subject is available in the following publications from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

HSG(47) – Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

GS6 – Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Lines

Along with Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) publication FISA 804 – Electricity at Work: Forestry

## FINALLY...

Please, always remember that electricity cables and lines can be very dangerous – the general rule is **STAY AWAY**.

We recognise that this may not always be possible, so we are here to help you and answer any questions you may have – if in any doubt please contact us.

By working together, we can ensure that risks are minimised and everyone stays safe.

**PLEASE STAY AWAY, KEEP EVERYONE ELSE AWAY AND CALL US ON OUR EMERGENCY NUMBER.**

**0800 6783 105**

Our  
Operational  
Area



## Avoidance of Danger from Electricity Overhead Lines during Leisure Activities

Please read the information contained in this leaflet – it could help prevent a serious accident to you, your family, your friends or your customers.

**WESTERN POWER  
DISTRIBUTION**

*Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales*

## WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

In the UK, on average, 20 people are killed and 400 people are injured every year as a result of coming into contact or close proximity to overhead electricity lines.

A significant number of these accidents happen while people are enjoying a leisure activity such as sailing, fishing, camping and flying kites.

In the Midlands, South West and Wales, Western Power Distribution (WPD) have attended incidents where people have accidentally made contact with one of our live electricity overhead lines or damaged an underground cable and become seriously injured.

This booklet has therefore been produced to help you, your family, your friends or your customers to stay safe.

### So what should you do?

#### ALWAYS LOOK AROUND YOU BEFORE COMMENCING YOUR ACTIVITIES

Our equipment is designed so that it is not dangerous in normal circumstances. The live parts are placed high up out of normal reach.

However, a dangerous situation can arise if long objects such as fishing lines, poles or rods, kites, tent poles, masts of yachts, hot air balloons, hang gliders etc. come close to our overhead lines.

The safest approach is to **LOOK AROUND YOU AND STAY AWAY FROM THE OVERHEAD LINES.**

As well as being able to see the overhead lines themselves, if you are taking part in activities such as sailing, camping or fishing at a site known to us, there may be yellow "Danger" signs and other warnings or barriers posted around the site.



## ALWAYS OBEY THESE SIGNS

TREAT ALL OVERHEAD LINES AND CABLES AS LIVE AND DANGEROUS

It can be difficult to tell the difference between telephone lines and electricity overhead lines – so please don't try. It is far safer to treat all overhead lines as DANGEROUS.

If you find objects hanging from overhead lines or poles (such as fishing line, chains or ropes) **PLEASE STAY AWAY, KEEP EVERYONE ELSE AWAY AND CALL US ON OUR EMERGENCY NUMBER.**



# 0800 6783 105

If possible, please be ready to provide us with an accurate location, pole reference number or set of directions together with a contact telephone number – this will help us in getting our staff to site quickly to minimise any danger.

If someone or something has made contact with an overhead line, you should immediately clear the area to at least 50m away from the damage because the overhead line could still be live, or become live again.



Do not make contact with anything that could still be touching or very close to our electrical equipment.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TOUCH OR MOVE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT MIGHT STILL BE CONNECTED TO OUR SYSTEM. YOU COULD BE PUTTING YOURSELF IN SERIOUS DANGER!**

## IF YOU RUN A CLUB, SOCIETY OR LEISURE FACILITY - BE PROACTIVE

If you operate a site such as a fishing lake, campsite, sailing club etc., over which our lines pass then we need to work together to ensure that people using the site are safe.



Contact us on our general enquiries phone number for advice. The numbers are on the back of this leaflet.

The measures that may need to be taken will vary from site to site and could include the use of:

- Barriers – it may be sensible to use barriers to prevent people from: moving tall items such as boats with masts erected; fishing; or flying kites in the vicinity of the overhead line.
- Use of alternative routes or areas in which people undertake the activities.
- Danger Signs – application of danger signs on all approaches to the overhead line – these can be erected onto posts or as additions to the poles themselves and can be provided free of charge for you to install.
- Publication of the danger in any literature such as a club magazine, onto membership cards, in booking forms, with tickets and posters.
- Ask WPD to attend your club or society. By prior arrangement, we will be happy to make presentations at meetings for your staff and/or members if you wish us to do so.