



DAMAGE TO ELECTRICITY POWER LINES CAUSED BY GUNSHOT

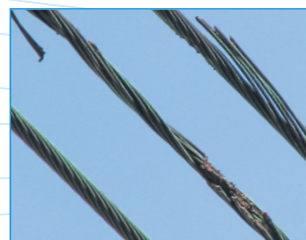
ESB Networks is responsible for providing a safe and reliable electricity service to all our 2.4 million electricity customers – in homes, workplaces, towns and cities and throughout the countryside. Safety is our number one priority and that is why we are committed to raising public awareness of the need to always be conscious of where the electricity network is and the serious consequences for life if damage is caused to our equipment.

Thankfully, safety is now recognised by many organisations as being critically important and the work of the NARGC in promoting safety and firearms proficiency is an example of an organisation making safety important.

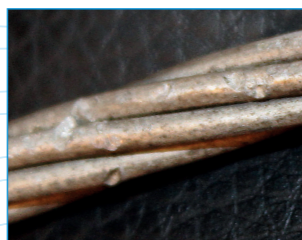
Every year serious incidents occur involving the electricity network when poles and overhead wires are damaged. Sometimes the damage is caused by machinery or falling trees; other times overhead electricity wires and insulators on the top of poles have been damaged by gunshot. I appreciate that the consequences of this damage may not always be apparent but sooner or later, with occurrences of this type, the overhead electricity wires will weaken and ultimately come to the ground.

Electricity wires are always live and even in power outage situations must always be treated as live. Therefore people and animals are always in danger of electrocution. In all situations, you should never, ever approach fallen wires or touch them in any way. If you become aware of any incident where shots have been fired at or close to overhead power lines or, if you see any damage, please inform ESB Networks immediately.

In the event of a dangerous situation, please contact the ESB Networks 24-HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER – 1800 372 999.



Gun shot damage to bare conductor



Gun shot damage to conductor (close-up)



Insulated bundle conductor punctured by gun shot allowing moisture to corrode aluminium within

Critical precautions for users of shotguns and hunting rifles:

- Be careful not to cause harm to the electricity network.
- Familiarise yourself with the location of overhead power lines where you plan to shoot.
- Take notice of electricity warning signs.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not always be visible.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines, insulators or any electrical equipment or at or near birds perching on them.
- Never use 'lofting poles' near overhead power lines - remember electricity can jump across a gap so being close puts you at serious risk.
- Never use electricity poles or steel towers to support any shooting equipment.
- Never climb electricity poles or steel towers.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other electricity equipment.



NEVER TAKE AIM NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Gunshot damage to electricity wires puts people at risk of serious injury or death from electrocution

- Gunshot damage causes electricity wires to weaken and ultimately fall to the ground.
- Electricity wires are always live.
- If a fallen wire lands on an electric fence or gate, they also become live.
- Report any damage immediately.

Phone immediately **1800 372 999** (24 hour/7 day service).

www.esbnetworks.ie

