



Consequences of Flooding for Electrical Safety

As well as the in-describable hardships that many people are enduring with flooded homes, farmland and roads, there are important personal safety matters that need your attention. ESB Networks is advising all electricity customers to be extra vigilant during these times of heavy flooding. The combination of water and electricity is extremely dangerous and you need to remain vigilant at all times to stay safe.

- Overhead electricity wires are installed so that they are well clear and “out of the way” for most normal activities. The advice is to always “Stay Safe Stay Clear” by watching out for electricity wires.
- However, where lands, roadways, rivers and streams are heavily flooded, there are new dangers. For example if using a boat, you are now much closer to the overhead wires because of the change in levels. You need to be extra vigilant, especially when crossing beneath electricity wires at their lowest point. If in doubt, contact the ESB Networks number: 1850 372 999.
- If you observe damaged electrical equipment on roads or in fields, you must stay clear and contact the ESB Networks Emergency Number. Avoid any fallen or reduced height electricity wires or ground-mounted equipment that is partially or fully submerged; report this immediately by calling 1850 372 999.
- Where your electrical installation is at risk due to flooding, you should turn off your electricity supply at the isolator switch fuse box if it is safe to do so. Fuseboxes are usually near your meter position which may be inside your property or in an outside meter cabinet. If this is not possible you may be able to unplug electrical appliances where it is safe to do so. If in doubt, you should contact a registered electrical contractor.
- Above all else, you must never touch any electrical appliances, cables or equipment while standing in water or where appliances are wet or in water.
- When the floods recede, it is important to remain vigilant because previously unseen dangers may now be more immediate. Before reconnecting your electrical installation you should have it checked out by a registered electrical contractor.

For updates and more information on the safe use of electricity, please follow us on Twitter, @ESBNetworks, and on our website www.esbnetworks.ie and listen to our regular safety messages on national and local media and on-line.

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