



## Electricity Safety Tips – Are you sure it's safe

### Stay safe – Stay Clear of Electricity Wires

#### **Fallen Electricity Wires – Keep Away and contact the ESB Networks immediately**

- Never approach or handle fallen electricity wires.
- Electricity wires are always 'live'
- It is never safe to handle fallen wires
- Contact ESB Networks immediately at 1850 372 999

#### **Farming**

- Working near overhead electricity wires and having an unsafe electrical installation are the main causes of electrical accidents and fatalities on farms.
- Always keep a safe distance from overhead electricity wires when using farm machinery
- Watch out for new electrical hazards when land use is changed such as new routes, different layouts.
- Remember you do not have to touch electricity wires – just coming close can cause electricity to jump across the air.
- Always use a registered electrical contractor to install and maintain your electrical installation.
- Ensure you have an RCD (residual current device) installed and test it regularly.
- Use a plug-in RCD with portable tools and equipment such as powerwashers and cutting tools.
- Keep electrical equipment dry.
- Don't use electrical equipment near water or in wet conditions unless it is properly rated (IP rating for water and dust).
- Visually check that equipment, flexes and plug-tops are in good condition before you use it.
- Always replace a damaged flex or plug-top; don't repair it.
- Never improvise with electricity – use a registered electrical contractor.
- Never joint a cable or flex.
- Use approved extension reels and fully unwind extension leads when in use as they can overheat, melting the insulation and causing the equipment to become 'live' and dangerous.



- Switch off and un-plug electrical tools when not in use.
- Permanent outdoor wiring must be installed by a registered Electrical Contractor.
- Make sure electrical cables are buried properly and their location marked.
- For more detailed information, please consult ESB Networks **Farm Safely With Electricity** booklet: [http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/safety-environment/safety\\_farm.jsp](http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/safety-environment/safety_farm.jsp)
- and
- [http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications\\_and\\_Forms/Publications/Agriculture\\_and\\_Forestry/Guidelines\\_for\\_safe\\_working\\_near\\_overhead\\_electricity\\_lines\\_in\\_Agriculture.html](http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Agriculture_and_Forestry/Guidelines_for_safe_working_near_overhead_electricity_lines_in_Agriculture.html)

## Gardening

- Ensure you have an RCD (residual current device) installed and test it regularly.
- Use a plug-in RCD with all electrical garden tools and equipment.
- Keep electrical equipment dry.
- Don't use electrical equipment outdoors near water or in wet weather.
- Visually check that equipment, flexes and plug-tops are in good condition before you use it.
- Always replace a damaged flex or plug-top; don't repair it.
- Keep trailing flexes well clear of cutting parts of lawnmowers, hedge-trimmers and electric saws.
- Never improvise with electricity – use a registered electrical contractor.
- Never joint a cable or flex.
- Use approved extension reels and fully unwind extension leads when in use as they can overheat, melting the insulation and causing the equipment to become 'live' and dangerous.
- Don't leave appliances or tools unattended when they are plugged in.
- Switch off and un-plug electrical tools when not in use.
- Make sure all pumps and garden lights are properly rated for use outdoors.
- Permanent outdoor wiring must be installed by a registered Electrical Contractor.
- Make sure electrical cables are buried properly and their location marked.
- Do not string extension leads or cables through hedging or plants or along paths or borders. The wire could be accidentally damaged when gardening and become dangerous.



### **Bunting and Flags**

- Never attach bunting or flags to electricity poles.
- Overhead electricity wires are not insulated.
- Coming close to electricity wires can give you an electric shock.
- A very small current – much less than a light bulb – causes the heart to stop.
- Never place a ladder against electricity poles
- Never carry raised objects near electricity wires.
- If you see bunting or flags attached to electricity poles, please contact the ESB Networks emergency number immediately - 1850 372 999

### **Construction**

- Always Watch Out and Look Up when working near overhead electricity wires.
- Never undertake any construction activity within 10 metres of an overhead electricity wire.
- If you are planning to work near overhead electricity wires, contact ESB Networks on 1850 372 757 before you start.
- Never dump spoil, rubble or topsoil under overhead electricity wires. Doing this puts you and others at serious risk of electrocution because it raises the ground levels and reduces the safe distance to the overhead electricity wires.
- Keep away from fallen or low hanging wires as they can be very dangerous. Call ESB Networks emergency number 1850 372 999 and we will rectify the problem.
- Before starting any digging work, contact ESB Networks' "Dial Before U Dig" at 1850 928 960 or [Dig@esb.ie](mailto:Dig@esb.ie) to find out if there are any electricity cables in the vicinity of the planned work..
- For more information about how to avoid contact with overhead and underground electricity cables download the following information booklets.
- [http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/downloads/esb\\_networks\\_avoidances\\_of\\_electrical\\_hazards\\_when\\_digging.pdf](http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/downloads/esb_networks_avoidances_of_electrical_hazards_when_digging.pdf)
- [http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/downloads/avoid\\_electric\\_hazards.pdf](http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/downloads/avoid_electric_hazards.pdf)
- [http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications\\_and\\_Forms/Publications/Safety\\_and\\_Health\\_Management/ESB\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_for\\_Avoiding\\_Danger\\_from\\_Overhead\\_Electricity\\_Lines.html](http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Safety_and_Health_Management/ESB_Code_of_Practice_for_Avoiding_Danger_from_Overhead_Electricity_Lines.html)



- [http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications\\_and\\_Forms/Publications/Construction/Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_for\\_Avoiding\\_Danger\\_from\\_Underground\\_Services\\_.html](http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Construction/Code_of_Practice_for_Avoiding_Danger_from_Underground_Services_.html)

## Electricity and Flooding

- Stay Safe Stay Clear by watching out for electricity wires.
- Be extra vigilant at times of heavy flooding.
- The combination of water and electricity is extremely dangerous.
- New dangers arise when lands, roadways, rivers and streams are heavily flooded because normal clearances between dry land and electricity wires can be seriously compromised.
- If using a boat, you can be much closer to the overhead wires because of the change in levels.
- 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 should stay clear and contact the ESB Networks Emergency Number.
- Avoid any fallen or reduced height electricity wires or ground-mounted electrical equipment that may be partially or fully submerged; report 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.
- You should 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.

**Arthur Byrne**  
**Public Safety Manager, ESB Networks**