



## 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 1800 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.
- 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.
- Keep electrical equipment dry. Only use electrical equipment with IP rating for water and dust in wet/dusty conditions.
- 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 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.
- Make sure electrical cables are buried properly and their location marked.
- For more detailed information, please consult [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, or saws.
- Never try to repair or 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

- Overhead electricity wires are not insulated - never attach bunting or flags to electricity poles.
- Coming close to electricity wires can give you an electric shock.
- 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 - 1800 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 1800 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 1800 372 999 to report.
- Before starting any digging work, contact ESB Networks' "Dial Before U Dig" at 1800 928 960 or [Dig@esb.ie](mailto:Dig@esb.ie) to find out if there are any electricity cables in the vicinity.
- For more information about how to avoid contact with overhead and underground electricity cables check our website [Staying Safe \(esbnetworks.ie\)](http://Staying Safe (esbnetworks.ie)) and [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

- [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 the distance between you and the overhead wires can be reduced.
- 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 ESB Networks Emergency 1800 372 999.
- If you observe damaged electrical equipment on roads or in fields, you should stay clear and contact ESB Networks Emergency 1800 372 999.
- Avoid any fallen or reduced height electricity wires or ground-mounted electrical equipment that may be partially or fully submerged; report immediately to ESB Networks Emergency 1800 372 999.
- Where your electrical installation is at risk due to flooding, you should turn off your electricity supply at the main switch in your fuse box / consumer unit, if it is safe to do so. Fuse box / consumer unit is usually near your electricity meter either 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.