



# TREE AND VEGETATION TRIMMING

Trees are one of nature's greatest assets and have an enormous benefit to communities, the environment and our wellbeing. However, trees planted underneath or near the electricity network can cause damage to the electricity infrastructure and result in power outages. This is a particular hazard during storms or windy weather where trees, branches and vegetation come in contact with, or fall across, the network. Fallen electricity wires are extremely dangerous and it is important to put in place preventative measures to manage this risk to people and animals.

To reduce Power outages and ensure public safety, ESB Networks has a tree and vegetation trimming programme in place. The programme is part of ESB's work in building and maintaining the electricity network for all customers in Ireland and is carried out on a cyclic basis depending on the line type and voltage. To do this work, ESB contracts tree cutting and clearing companies, who are trained to work safely in the proximity of power lines.

The contractor carrying out the tree trimming will endeavour to carry out the work as aesthetically as possible and ESB Networks will work with land owners to obtain the best solution for all. ESB Networks is committed to operating to the highest environmental standards and minimising the environmental impact when working on property and land.

## ESB Networks top tips for safety around trees:

- To help ESB Networks maintain a safe reliable electricity network, we ask landowners not to plant trees, particularly those that are fast growing, directly underneath electricity wires.
- Cutting timber near overhead electricity wires is dangerous and requires specialist knowledge and training. If you see timber that poses a hazard to electricity wires, please do not attempt to cut it yourself or employ a contractor to do so, without first contacting ESB Networks at 1800 372 757 for advice.
- Ensure a safe proximity zone is in place around poles and stays while using mechanical Hedge Cutters, i.e. approximately 10 metres.
- Be careful while digging in proximity to overhead electricity wires.
- If felling trees in a ditch line ensure that there is a clear falling distance away from any overhead electricity wires of twice the height of the trees.
- If you are aerial pruning trees ensure that you are 9 metres away when working on LV up to 38kV lines, and 15 metres away when working on 110kV to 400kV lines.
- Do not climb a tree which is growing close to overhead electricity wires. Electricity can flow through the moisture in the tree or you could climb too close to the electricity wires.
- If you notice an electricity wire on the ground because a tree has fallen on it, or perhaps a tree leaning across an overhead electricity wire, do not approach. Phone ESB Networks' Emergency number 1800 372 999 (24/7).

Thank you from ESB Networks.

