

### Additional information for winch and aerotow operations:

- > Position the winch and launch point to minimise launch cable drift.
- > Use an appropriately sized cable drogue parachute to minimise drift.
- > Consider earthing the winch.
- > If a cable should fall across an overhead power line, evacuate everyone in the vicinity of the cable and winch. You should contact the local Electricity Company, giving a precise location.
- > Never attempt to go near or recover a cable that is in contact with an overhead power line.

### What to do if your vehicle or machinery comes into contact with an overhead power line:

- > If any part of your vehicle is in contact with an overhead power line or within 5 metres of a fallen line then stay on it until the Emergency Services or Electricity Company arrive, unless you are in danger.
- > Phone the Electricity Company using the number on this leaflet.
- > If you must get off then you should jump clear making leaping strides so that one foot is off the ground at all times until you are at least 5 metres away.
- > Do not return to the vehicle.
- > Keep others away from the vehicle. Touching it or even getting too close could kill them.
- > Never touch overhead power lines, always assume that lines are live unless the Electricity Company has told you they are dead.

This information should be used in conjunction with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) leaflet, **Shock Horror** – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg389.pdf>.

### Emergency contact numbers

Network Operator Emergency contact number  
Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd 0800 616 817

Network Operator Advice contact number  
Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd 08457 643 643



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# Energy Networks Association Safety Information for Aviators

Light Aircraft  
Helicopters  
Microlights  
Gliders  
Hang Gliders  
Paragliders  
Hot Air Balloons

## Vital energy, delivered safely

There are overhead power lines criss-crossing the country. Often unnoticed, they are essential to provide electricity to cities, towns, villages and rural communities. They carry voltages ranging from 230 volts (domestic voltage) up to 400,000 volts. Even domestic voltage can be fatal and high voltage electricity can jump large gaps.

The energy network is designed to keep you safe, but people die each year due to accidental contact with overhead power lines, whilst others endure life changing injury with the lives of their families also suffering as a result.

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**The risk of danger can be considerably reduced by following some simple safety tips.**



## Staying safe

- > Any power lines, electricity substations or electrical engineering equipment may be live and could kill you. Do not touch them, or any object or person that is in contact with them – even if you believe the power is off, it could be turned on again without warning.
- > Electricity can jump gaps so even getting too close to lines can be dangerous. Many objects can also conduct electricity such as trees, string, rope and water.
- > Rubber boots will not protect you and not all power lines are insulated.
- > Do not assume lines on wood poles are telephone lines – most overhead power lines are supported by poles.
- > If an overhead power line has fallen to the ground it may still be live, keep more than 5 metres away – the current can travel along the ground, through objects such as fences or metal objects and through water or other liquids. You do not need to touch the power line to be killed by it.
- > If you need to get clear, jump clear, making leaping strides so that one foot is off the ground at all times until you are 5 metres away.

### Top tips

1. Do not touch or get close to power lines.
2. Keep 5 metres away from fallen or damaged power lines, AND
3. Contact the emergency services and the Electricity Company immediately.

## Advice for aviators

### What to do if your aircraft comes into contact with an overhead line:

- > If any part of your aircraft is in contact with an overhead power line follow the advice for a vehicle in contact with a line.

This information should be used in conjunction with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) leaflet, **Shock Horror** and with CAA guidance and your club/company procedures.

### Before you take off:

- > Take note of the location of overhead power lines, particularly in the vicinity of both your departure and your destination airfield or landing area.
- > Refer to the CAA 1:250,000 map, which shows the major transmission lines, because of their height. Refer to a general map to locate other overhead power lines before take off.
- > Find out as much as possible about a new destination airstrip or landing area including any overhead power lines in the area. Consider driving there first to personally inspect it. Use internet maps and street views.
- > Take the emergency telephone number of your local Electricity Company from this leaflet and put it in your phone.

### During your flight:

- > Lookout for overhead power lines especially if you are flying low.
- > Always refer to your CAA 1:250,000 map looking for electricity transmission lines in the surrounding area.

### Final approach and landing out:

- > Look for a row of supporting poles or pylons to indicate the route as overhead power lines can be very difficult to see from the air.
- > Be aware that poles could be hidden behind trees and a 'tee off' line may come away at right angles across your intended landing field.
- > In the event of an engine failure look out for overhead power lines on your final approach and within your chosen field.