

## Always remember that:

- Electricity can jump gaps.
- Contact or near contact with a crane jib, scaffold or ladder can cause a discharge of electricity with a risk of fatal or severe shock and burns to any person in the vicinity.
- If effective measures are not adopted to protect their equipment, the local electricity company will take steps to recover the cost of any damage caused. Promptness in reporting an incident will minimise costs.
- Persons causing damage resulting in loss of supply to customers can be held legally responsible for any damage to the plant or equipment of these customers.
- In most cases it is not practicable to make overhead lines dead without interrupting supplies to customers. However, provided adequate notice is given, the local electricity company will, whenever possible, give advice regarding special precautions which may be necessary on any site where specific problems may be encountered. The right is reserved to make a charge for this service.

## For your information

Copies of Health and Safety Guidance note GS 6 are available from HMSO, Head Offices of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

**In situations of danger, where the advice contained in this leaflet can not be followed, consult the local electricity company immediately.**

**Safety advice brought to you by  
Southern Electric Power Distribution plc  
Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc.**

## Watch it!

**in the vicinity of overhead lines**



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## The electricity at work regulations 1989

impose health and safety requirements upon employers, employees and self-employed persons with respect to electricity at work. The regulations impose restrictions on persons being engaged in work activities on or near live conductors.

### Regulation 14 requires that:

"No person shall be engaged in any work activity on or near any live conductor (other than one suitably covered with insulating material so as to prevent danger) that danger may arise unless:

- it is **unreasonable** in all circumstances for it to be dead; and
- it is **reasonable** in all circumstances for him to be at work on or near it while it is live; and
- suitable precautions (including where necessary the provision of suitable protective equipment) are taken to prevent injury.

The purpose of the regulations is to require precautions to be taken against the risk of death or personal injury from electricity in work activities.

## For your own and your workmates' safety, please follow the **do's** and **don'ts** listed below

**do** carefully note the position of all overhead lines before commencing work.

**do** co-operate during planning and sitework with the local electricity company who are usually the owners of overhead lines.

**do** follow the advice given in HSE Guidance Note GS 6 when siting barriers, goal posts, bunting etc.

**do** keep overhead lines in view when moving scaffolding or machinery and take special care when felling or lopping trees.

**do** remember that the raising or slewing of a crane or excavator jib may cause danger when operating near an overhead line.

**do** avoid any machinery that is in contact with an overhead line until the local electricity company confirms that conditions are safe.

**do** warn others to keep well clear.

**don't** drive a high vehicle below an overhead line when an alternative route is available.

**don't** raise the bed of a tipper lorry beneath an overhead line or drive under the line with the body of the vehicle raised.

**don't** steady any suspended load unless you are satisfied that there is no danger from overhead lines.

**don't** handle or use scaffold platforms, poles, pipes or ladders unless they are at a safe distance from overhead lines.

**don't** transport long objects beneath overhead lines, unless they are carried in a horizontal position.

**don't** approach or touch any broken or fallen overhead lines.

