

Safety Information For Farmers & Agricultural Contractors

Working safely in the vicinity of overhead lines.



Jersey Electricity
Energy for everyone

This leaflet is published by Jersey Electricity based on guidance provided by the Energy Networks Association

In the UK, people are killed and injured each year due to accidental contact with overhead power lines.

There are more than 75km of electricity overhead lines crossing the countryside in Jersey. Often unnoticed, they are essential to provide electricity to the rural communities in all 12 parishes. In the UK, overhead lines carry voltages ranging from 230 volts (domestic voltage) up to 400,000 volts but in Jersey, overhead lines are restricted to 230/400 volts, which can still provide a lethal shock.

The use of agricultural machinery (such as hedge cutters, combine harvesters, tipping trailers, boom sprayers and loaders) and equipment (such as irrigation pipes and ladders) as well as activities such as stacking can often bring farmers and agricultural contractors close to such power lines.

This leaflet provides a basic guide to maximise your chances of remaining safe when:

- hedge cutting
- ploughing
- using irrigation pipes and ladders
- using combine harvesters
- loading or unloading vehicles
- using tipper wagons or trailers in fields
- stacking materials
- in the vicinity of electricity overhead power lines

General key points

- In Jersey, electricity overhead lines are restricted to 230/400 volts, which can still provide a lethal shock.
- Never assume that electrical equipment is dead, even if the wires have fallen or broken.
- Remember - the power can be switched back on at any time, without warning.
- Touching electricity wires or objects/ persons in contact with the wires can be fatal.
- Electricity can jump gaps.
- Even the 230 volt overhead lines can produce 10,000 times more current than is required to kill a person.
- Trees, string, ropes, suspension lines and water can conduct electricity.
- Rubber boots will not protect you.
- Most overhead electricity wires are not insulated.
- Don't assume wires on wooden poles are telephone wires.



Always carry a mobile phone when you are in the field to call the emergency services if necessary.

Jersey Electricity
emergency number:
505050

It is not only agricultural equipment and machinery which present a danger. A jet of water or liquid slurry can cause discharge of electricity and a high risk of fatal or severe injury.

Injuries are often caused by a combination of factors including tiredness and a lack of concentration.



Measure your machinery

The increases in size of farm machinery mean it is important that you consider the size of both your own machinery and that used by your contractors on your land.

Find out the maximum height and vertical reach of all your machinery and equipment and that of your contractors.

Remember to take account of the height of workers on top of such machinery.

Consider the risks from overhead power lines when buying new or used machinery.

Overhead lines should be at a minimum clearance from the ground of 5.2 metres (17 feet.) However, live equipment fitted on poles may be as low as 4.3 metres (14 feet.)

Know your overhead power line routes

Find and note the routes of overhead power lines running across your land or near its boundaries. Jersey Electricity will supply this information on request.

Mark these routes on your farm map.

Use the farm map as a reference when planning cropping and other work, instructing machine operators and contractors, or buying new equipment.



Think Ahead

Select your machinery and equipment carefully so it cannot come into contact with overhead power lines.

Use your machinery and equipment safely.

Plan your work so it avoids high-risk areas.


Use alternative access point and routes to fields which avoid crossing under overhead power lines.

Keep an eye out for children and visitors on your land.

Ensure that your agricultural contractors are briefed with this information.

Never construct or stack anything directly under or near to overhead lines.

Assess your safe working clearances to overhead lines (refer to HSI document "Working Safely and Avoiding Danger", shown right.)



working safely
and
avoiding danger
from
underground services
and other utility
apparatus

Inform people

Include the Jersey Electricity emergency telephone number 505050 on your farm map and in your list of telephone contacts.

Make sure everyone who is working on your land is aware of the presence of overhead lines.

Train staff to be aware of the risks associated with overhead power lines.

Make sure they know what to do if there is an accident.

Make sure contractors are aware of the location of overhead power lines on your land.

Consult Jersey Electricity on 505460...

...if you require any advice on precautions and safe workings practices to be followed near overhead electric power lines.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

What to do if your agricultural machinery comes into contact with an overhead line:

Never touch overhead power line conductors.

Assume the line/wires are live, even if they are not sparking.

Remember the wires can become live again without notice, even if they are dead initially. This may occur automatically after a few minutes, or up to several hours later if Jersey Electricity is not aware the line has been damaged.

Call the emergency services. Give them your location as accurately as you can. Tell them that there are electricity wires involved and ask them to inform Jersey Electricity.

If your machinery is in contact with an electricity wire or within 5 metres of a damaged overhead wire, then stay inside your vehicle until the emergency services or Jersey Electricity arrive, unless there is a imminent threat to life.

Be aware, keep clear. Once a wire is on the ground, you do not have to touch it to be killed. The current may travel a significant distance through the ground and even further if the wire has fallen on a fence or other metallic objects.

If you have to get out of your vehicle, try to **JUMP CLEAR** rather than stepping off. Jump as far away as you can, landing on your feet, then clear the vehicle by **at least 10 metres.**

Keep others away even if you are in the cab. Someone else touching your vehicle could receive a fatal electric shock.

A Jersey Electricity engineer will confirm when the power has been turned off allowing the rescue to proceed safely.

Do not allow anyone to approach the wire until it is confirmed safe to do so by Jersey Electricity engineers.

BE AWARE, KEEP CLEAR.

For more information, call our
Customer Care Team 8am to 6pm,
Mon to Fri on **505460** or visit
www.jec.co.uk



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