

Be Bright Stay Safe

Is it worth **risking your life** to get the job done?



UK Power Networks is the country's biggest electricity distributor, making sure the lights stay on for more than eight million homes and businesses across London, the South East and the East of England.

There are no second chances with electricity.

In the last five years, across the UK, 354 people have suffered life-changing injuries after striking a live underground electricity cable. Recent research has found nearly a third (31%) of tradespeople do not always check for underground cables before beginning work.

You can be at risk not just when digging but when drilling or piling, using lifting equipment, ladders, pneumatic drills or hand and power tools.

TAKE TIME. THINK BEFORE YOU DIG. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

- Plan. Allow time before starting each job to obtain cable plans from your network operator. Know what services lie below before you start to dig.
- Show the plans to everyone working on site, who may be affected, and ensure the plans are understood.
- Before excavating complete a risk assessment and identify all hazards or dangers.
- Locate where the cables are before you start to dig using a cable avoidance tool. Underground cables may not run in straight lines. Clearly mark out where the cables are before starting work.
- Dig trial holes by hand BEFORE using mechanical excavators or tools. Always adopt safe digging techniques – refer to HSG47
- Before drilling into walls, roof areas or floors always use a cable detector.
- Look Up. Look Out. Work away from overhead power lines when handling long items, such as scaffold poles, or when using lifting and digging equipment.
- Always assume overhead and underground cables are live, even if they have been damaged.
- In case of an emergency. Dial 999 and state that electricity is involved.

Always call 105 if you have a safety concern or you notice any damage to the electricity network (underground cables, overhead power lines or substations)

For cable plans visit
www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk
or www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Avoiding Danger from Underground services
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm

Watch The Electricity Network Association's
'Think before you dig' video
www.vimeo.com/472990801

Scan the QR codes to watch our
excavation and trades safety animations



For downloadable resources and stickers
www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/safety/



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