



Energy safety 1: Out and about

High-voltage electricity is all around us and can be dangerous if misused. Touching or even going near it can give a person an electric shock and may even kill them. Stay safe around electricity by following these rules.

Overhead power lines

You should never:

- touch power lines
- go fishing or fly a kite near overhead power lines
- climb trees that are close to power lines
- try to get a toy or a balloon that is stuck in power lines. Your local electricity distribution company will be able to get it for you safely
- climb a wooden pole or a pylon
- go near power lines especially if they have been damaged in a storm or accident. Ask an adult to call your local electricity distribution company if you see a damaged power line. The telephone number can be found in the telephone directory under 'electricity'

In the street

You should never:

- try to remove the covers from street lights - the wires inside could electrocute you
- mess around with bollards in the street - they have electricity inside
- play on building sites or go in holes dug in the road - they may contain live electric wires

Substations

Substations can be dangerous places for people who are not qualified engineers. The warning signs on them make this very clear.

You should never:

- try to get a ball or anything else from inside a substation. Always ask an adult to call the local electricity distribution company who will get it back safely for you
- play near a substation
- throw things at a substation. You might damage the equipment inside the substation, making it even more dangerous



Remember, high-voltage electricity can jump gaps.