

SAFETY AROUND WEL'S NETWORK

Trees

Branches and leaves in or near power lines are a safety hazard. WEL carry out regular patrols on lines to identify problem trees. It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep trees on their property clear of line.

Trimming of trees near power lines must be carried out by a qualified person. Please call WEL Networks on 0800 800 935 for advice and the WEL pamphlet on trimming trees and safe working distances.

Water blasting, painting, roofing, spouting etc.

If your house is connected to the WEL Network by an overhead service line, it may be dangerous to work too close to it.

You should arrange for your power to be temporarily disconnected. Call us on 0800 800 935 for further details.

Power cuts and lightning storms

In the event of a power cut, switch off and unplug sensitive electronic appliances such as personal computers, videos, satellite receivers, answering machines etc. Leave a light on so that you know when the power comes back on.

On very rare occasions lightning has been known to hit power lines. This can travel through the lines and could cause damage to electrical devices that are not surge protected.

Having a surge protector should mitigate damage.

Using portable tools outside

- Always use a residual circuit device (RCD) to protect the essential load and power tool you are using.
- In damp situations always use a RCD or an isolating transformer.

Extension leads

- Always check to make sure they are not damaged, perished or cracked.
- Always make sure both connecting plugs are in good condition and the cord is secured.

If you are in doubt do not use your extension lead and have them checked by an electrician.

And remember – always use a registered electrician.

In New Zealand we are a land of do-it-yourselfers, but every year there are accidents and fatalities involving electricity.



WEL Networks Ltd, PO Box 925, Hamilton
connect@wel.co.nz
www.wel.co.nz

To report an electricity fault call
0800 800 WEL
(0800 800 935)
For 24 hour 7 day service

DANGER

Working safely near electricity lines, poles and cables



Electricity can be unpredictable. It can jump from and between lines, so you don't have to touch a line to be seriously injured or even killed.

By following the following rules and tips below we can all be safe:

ALWAYS treat as live all power lines, transformers and other electrical equipment whether overhead or underground.

REPORT any problems you see to 0800 800 935. In an emergency dial 111 and state the emergency.

KEEP WELL CLEAR of power lines when using forklifts, cherry pickers, cranes etc. Be very careful when raising boat masts or launching sailboats near power lines.

BE VERY CAREFUL with fence wires, particularly when they are tightened. Do not connect fence wires or other metallic objects to electrical network structures.

NEVER climb poles or other electrical network structures (such as transformers).

DO NOT touch or approach fallen wires.

DO NOT light any fires or let off fireworks near (or under) overhead lines.

DO NOT fly kites or model planes near (or under) lines.

NEVER dig or excavate without first checking for the location of underground cables.

DO NOT cut down tall trees near overhead lines without first taking professional advice.

ALWAYS carry long objects (ladders, pipe, wood etc) horizontally when near lines.

Service line

This is a line connecting your house to the WEL Network. It can be overhead or buried underground.

If it is overhead be careful to keep trees away from the line, and make sure the line is not frayed or damaged.

If the line is underground be careful when digging.

Dig with caution

Before you begin to dig or excavate, check where underground pipes and cables are.

NOTE: just because there may be overhead lines doesn't mean there aren't underground cables too. Cable depth will vary, and if you are exposing a mains cable be cautious of sub-cables running off this.

If in doubt call WEL on 0800 800 935 and we can arrange for a cable location to be done.

NEVER work near high voltage cables without consulting WEL Networks first.

When digging near poles or transformers you must stay at least 5 metres away from them.

Overhead lines

Any work undertaken near overhead lines (or poles) must be at least 4 metres away. It is a legal requirement that the minimum safe distances be followed as per the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice (NZECP 34:2001). This also applies to the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing ones.

If you need to work close to lines, call WEL on 0800 800 935 and we can arrange for safety measures to be put into place to minimise the risk.

If you damage, cut, break or see a problem with an electricity cable:

- Move back at least 10 metres and evacuate the surrounding area. Treat the cable as LIVE at all times.
- If you are in a car, digger (or other machine), stay there. If you are forced to leave the machine or vehicle, jump well clear. DO NOT contact the machine and the ground at the same time.
- Call WEL Networks 0800 800 935 and advise us, or dial 111 if it is an emergency.
- NEVER try to fix a damaged cable yourself or cover it up.