

Toolbox Talk Details

Title	D12 - Overhead services
Reason	Unseen and unheard, electricity can cause death or serious injury without warning. Your body is an extremely good conductor of electricity – do not find out the hard way.
Outline	This talk covers overhead power lines and cables

General precautions

- Every year, people are killed or seriously injured at work when they come into contact with live overhead services. These incidents often involve the examples below.

Machinery: cranes, lorry-loader cranes and tipping trailers.
Equipment: scaffold tubes and ladders.
Work activities: loading, unloading, lifting, spraying and stacking.
- Work may be carried out near to overhead services if there is no alternative and where risks are acceptable and can be properly controlled.
- A risk assessment must be undertaken. Your employer should consult with the electricity supply company, as it will be able to give advice on suitable control measures.

Overhead power lines

- Until it has been proved otherwise, all overhead lines should be treated as live and dangerous.
- Ensure you know the minimum clearance distances specified by the electricity supply company.
- Never enter a safety zone without prior authorisation.
- Do not bypass goalposts, barriers or other warnings.
- Check your route is clear of overhead power lines before moving any tall object that could conduct electricity (such as mobile scaffold towers or metal ladders).
- If signalling, always keep power lines in view. Guide plant under power lines only where goalposts have been erected.
- Ensure you observe any special precautions laid down by the electricity company before working near to or passing underneath overhead lines.
- If erecting scaffolding adjacent to power lines, ensure the poles are handled a safe distance away, in line with your employer's safe system of work.
- Do not stack materials or operate tippers under power lines as it will reduce the safe clearance and can result in arcing.
- Ensure stockpiles of excavated earth do not reduce clearance between overhead power lines and the ground.

Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	