

## Landowners, angling clubs and associations

Please refer to the Energy Networks Association guidance document on angler safety 'Managing Risks Associated with Angling in Close Proximity to Overhead Electric Power Lines' available on their website [energynetworks.org](http://energynetworks.org)

This document gives detailed guidance on your duties and the precautions that need to be taken to ensure angler safety. Warning and angling exclusion zone signs can be obtained from Western Power Distribution for fishing waters in its area.

## About us

We are the electricity distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West and South Wales.

We deliver electricity to over 7.8 million customers across a 55,500 sq kms service area.

Our network consists of 220,000 kms of overhead lines and underground cables and 185,000 substations.

In this leaflet we have outlined important safety measures to help you to fish safely.



# Angling Safely

Advice about angling near overhead power lines



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Version 1.0

**WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION**

*Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales*

## Practising safe fishing

Every year, cases are reported of angling equipment coming into contact with overhead power lines. Some of these incidents have resulted in horrific burn injuries, a number resulting in death. These could have been avoided if anglers were aware of the dangers and fished safely when near to overhead power lines.



## You don't have to touch a wire to be harmed

Fishing rods and poles made from carbon fibre and similar materials will conduct electricity. Many other materials will allow electricity to flow along them when they are wet. At higher voltages electricity may jump short distances through the air. This means that angling equipment does not even have to touch an overhead power line for anyone holding it to suffer an electric shock and burns that could result in death.

## Look out and look up

Overhead power lines are most commonly supported on wooden poles normally at a minimum height of 5.2 metres, at voltages between 230 volts and 132,000 volts. They are typically not insulated and can be mistaken for telephone wires. Overhead power lines supported on pylons are not insulated and can carry up to 400,000 volts.



Power lines normally have yellow 'Danger of Death' notices fitted to the poles or pylons. To ensure your safety all overhead lines should be treated as electric power lines and dangerous.

Overhead power lines are often difficult to see, particularly at night and against a dark or very bright background. They may also be partially hidden by trees or other obstacles.

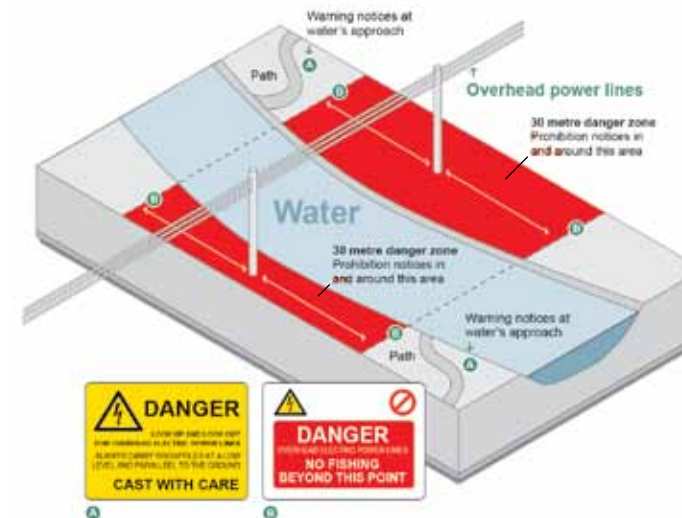
Look out for overhead power line warning notices and angling exclusion zone signs and obey any instructions - they have been put there to ensure your safety.

On unmanaged waters where warning and exclusion zone signs have not been erected, keep a distance of 30 metres horizontally between where you fish and any overhead power lines.

## Look out, look up, fish safely

- Lethal electric currents can pass through almost all fishing rods and poles - so unpack, set up and put away your rod at the water's edge.
- Keep a careful look out for overhead power lines and keep well away.
- Overhead power lines on wooden poles often look like telephone wires.
- Observe warning signs and instructions, even in the car park or at the roadside.
- Tell the fishery owner about any dangerous situations or near misses that you see.
- If you see a fishing line tangled on overhead power lines, report this to Western Power Distribution.

## Signposting the 30 metre danger zone



## What to do in an emergency

- Do not attempt to move the fishing equipment or person if either is still in contact with, or close to, the overhead power line.
- Electricity lines may stay live after contact or may be re-energised automatically or remotely without warning.
- Prevent third parties from entering the incident area.
- Maintain a 5 metre clearance.
- Contact the Emergency Services through 999 and request an ambulance, if required.
- Contact Western Power Distribution's emergency service using the telephone number below, so that the power line can be made safe.

## General Enquiries

Midlands 0845 724 0240

South Wales 0845 601 3341

South West 0845 601 2989

## Emergencies

All regions: 0800 6783 105