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Silage Harvesting and Overhead Electricity Power Lines.

A safety message from ESB Networks.

A major danger is working near overhead electricity power lines. Coming close to these live wires is extremely hazardous and can be fatal. Very serious electrical accidents have taken place involving silage machinery, both in the silage field and around the farmyard.

Contact, or even coming close to electricity wires can be fatal.

The minimum safe distance is 3 metres; it is more for higher voltage lines. If you have any concerns, contact ESB Networks for advice on 1800 372 757.

Accidents are preventable by taking care and recognising an unsafe situation. Never take chances with electricity.

- Identify where overhead wires, poles and stays are located.
- Remember the 3 metre safe distance.
- Watch out for overhead electricity wires.
- Steer clear of poles and stay wires.
- Never try to lift electricity wires - if they are low, contact ESB Networks immediately.
- Avoid crossing beneath electricity wires and work parallel to the wires.
- Do not stack bales or carry out loading near electricity wires or poles.
- Electricity wires and poles must be at least 6 metres away from the silage pit.
- Report any damage immediately.

If you have any concerns, please phone ESB Networks immediately. In an emergency the speed of your phone call could make all the difference.

The emergency contact number is 1800 372 999 or 021 2382410 (24 hour/ 7 day service).

Store these numbers in your mobile phone.

If an accident situation arises where any part of the machine is in contact with the electricity line, follow these steps:

- Stay in the cab;
- Keep everyone else clear, at least 5 metres;
- Phone ESB Networks immediately;
- If possible, reverse out of the contact situation;
- If you exit the cab (e.g. because of fire), jump clear and take short steps until you are 5 metres clear;
- Do not return or approach the cab or touch any part of the machine.

Do not, under any circumstances, handle electricity wires or anything they may be in contact with.