



NETWORKS

Consequences of Flooding for Electrical Safety

Flooding causes extreme hardship to people because of flooded homes, farmland and roads. The combination of water and electricity is extremely dangerous. ESB Networks advises all electricity customers to be extra vigilant during times of heavy flooding.

- Overhead electricity wires are installed so that they are well clear and “out of the way” for most normal activities. Always “Stay Safe Stay Clear by watching out for electricity wires.
- However, where lands, roadways, rivers and streams are heavily flooded, there are new dangers. For example, if using a boat, you are now much closer to the overhead wires because of the change in levels. You need to be extra vigilant, especially when crossing beneath electricity wires at their lowest point. If in doubt, contact the ESB Networks 24/7 emergency number: 1800 372 999 or 021 2382410.
- If you observe damaged electrical equipment on roads or in fields, you must stay clear and contact ESB Networks. Avoid any fallen or low hanging electricity wires or any electrical equipment that is partially or fully submerged. Report this immediately by calling 1800 372 999 or 021 2382410.
- Where your electrical installation is at risk due to flooding, you should turn off your electricity supply at the main isolator switch if it is safe to do so. If this is not possible you may be able to unplug electrical appliances where it is safe to do so. If in doubt, you should contact a registered electrical contractor.
- Above all else, you must never touch any electrical appliances, cables or equipment while standing in water or where appliances are wet or in water.
- When the floods recede, it is important to remain vigilant because previously unseen dangers may now be more immediate. Before reconnecting your electrical installation, you should have it checked out by a registered electrical contractor.

For updates and more information on the safe use of electricity, please follow us on Twitter @ESBNetworks, and on our website www.esbnetworks.ie and listen to our regular safety messages on national and local media and on-line.