

Toolbox Talk

High Voltage Electricity



How to deal with any cable:

- If you are unsure about any cable, treat it as high voltage.
- High Voltage is generally classed from 1000V to 400,000V . However even 230V can be lethal.
- Remember High Voltage cables above ground are not shielded—the electricity travels around them.
- Electricity arcs (jumps) across gaps, so you don't need to touch it to get into trouble.
- For 400kv cables, the minimum clear distance is 3.1m. General advise though is to keep 6m clear.
- Trees, string, ropes, highway crash barriers and water can carry electricity.
- Carry out a risk assessment before you start. Look up and look out for overhead wires.
- Carry out a service search of nation and local supply companies.

Electric current can cause injury in three ways:

- Cardiac arrest due to the electrical effect on the heart.
- Muscle, nerve, and tissue destruction from a current passing through the body.
- Thermal burns from contact with the electrical source.

CAUTION: Always assume it is live. Do not touch it.

If someone has been in contact with High Voltage electricity, what do you do?

