



Gréasáin BSL CGA  
Teach Chlann Liam, Cúirt Chann Liam,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 CV61, ÉIRE  
Fón 1850 372 757

ESB Networks DAC  
Clanwilliam House, Clanwilliam Court,  
Dublin 2, D02 CV61, Ireland  
Phone 1850 372 757

15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

Re: Silage Harvesting and Overhead Electricity Lines.

**A safety message from ESB Networks.**

Dear Farmer/Contractor,

A major risk is working near overhead electricity wires. Coming close to live electricity wires is extremely hazardous and can be fatal. Very serious electrical accidents have taken place involving silage machinery, both in the silage field and at the silage pit.

**Contact, or even near contact, with electricity lines can be fatal.**

The minimum safe distance is 3 metres, horizontally and vertically and 6 metres for silage pits; it is more for higher voltage lines.

Accidents are preventable with advance planning and safe behaviours. Put these precautions into practice everytime:

- Watch out for Overhead Wires, Poles and Stays.
- Steer Clear.
- Identify where Poles and Stays are in the field and avoid coming within 3 metres. You may need to physically 'Red Flag' them.
- Avoid crossing beneath Overhead Wires and Work Parallel.
- Poles and Overhead Wires must never be close to a silage pit. If they are closer than 6 metres, you must contact ESB Networks to re-locate. Do not work until ESB Networks advises that it is safe to do so.

If you have concerns about overhead wires, poles, or stays, please phone this number immediately. In an emergency, the speed of your phone call could make all the difference.

**The emergency contact number is 1850 372 999 ( 24 hour/ 7 day service).**

Store this number in your mobile phone.



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

- Stay in the cab;
- Keep everyone else clear of the scene, 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 to the cab.

**Do not, under any circumstances, approach or touch electricity wires or anything that may be in contact with them.**

Please check out our website for further information:

[www.esbnetworks/stayingsafe.ie](http://www.esbnetworks/stayingsafe.ie)

Yours Sincerely,

Arthur Byrne,

Public Safety Manager,

ESB Networks.