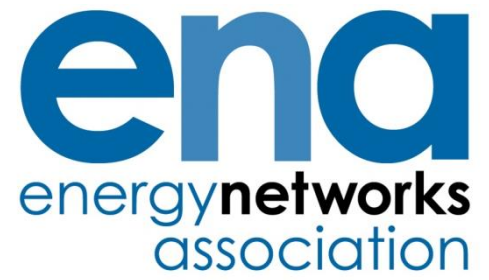


The Voice of the Networks



Public Safety: Annual Review 2019

Introduction

This is the 12th annual review providing information on progress with initiatives laid down in our strategy and looking at future work that has been developed as a result of a joint analysis with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) of incidents involving members of the public and contractors not directly employed by ENA member companies coming into contact with electricity network assets (e.g. overhead power lines).

ENA and its members continue to work closely with HSE to address public safety issues – HSE are permanently represented on our Public Safety Committee by representatives from the Electrical Specialist Inspectors and HSE’s Agriculture Safety Team.

“*Our Commitment to Public Safety*” sets out how the Energy Networks Association (ENA) Member Companies work together to raise awareness of the dangers that electricity poses and how all members of society, not just the electricity companies, have a role to play in preventing the danger. The Strategy is reviewed each year and is available on the ENA website.

Progress to Date

The ENA Public Safety Committee oversees the operational work identified in *Our Commitment to Public Safety*. The Committee met four times in 2019 and continues to be actively involved in the production of information for a range of priority target groups that are potentially at risk from carrying out activities close to electricity networks – both overhead lines (OHLs) and underground cables. This information includes leaflets providing advice on keeping safe in the vicinity of electrical equipment which are available on the ENA website.

ENA continues to work closely with outside stakeholders to share good practice and promote safe behaviour around electricity networks. This includes working with other utilities and contractors via the Utility Strikes Avoidance Group to address how best to reduce the incidences of striking underground services.

Agriculture

During 2018 and 2019, through ENA’s Public Safety Committee, the six GB electricity distribution network operators collaborated to co-fund and develop a new public safety film and awareness campaign – this was titled [Look Out Look Up](#). The primary target sector being agriculture, but secondary targets included construction and freight/road haulage. A short film based around an agricultural overhead line incident was made together with a communication campaign (and toolkit) to promote the key messages linked to raising awareness of risks and informing workers of the action to take should an incident occur.

Analysis of the latest data by HSE indicates that incidents involving agriculture and farming in relation to contact with electricity network assets has seen a marked improvement.

As a signatory to the ‘Farm Safety Charter’ ENA, together with its member companies, continues to support the Farm Safety Partnership (FSP). Linked to this, contact between ENA and the NFU continued through 2019.

In GB, ENA’s Public Safety Committee representatives continued to support HSE’s programme of Safety, Health and Awareness Days (SHADs). Member company representatives attended several events throughout 2019. ENA provided ‘*Electrical Safety Information for Farmers and Agricultural Contractors*’ leaflets for these events. Additionally companies distributed their OHL cab warning stickers.

However, the major activity focusing on the agricultural sector for 2019 was the development and

promotion via ENA website and social media of the ‘Look Out, Look Up’ campaign including safety video and tool kit.

Road Transport and Haulage Companies

On average, one person dies or is seriously injured each month as a result of contact with an overhead power line while driving or operating road transport, road haulage or tipper/HIAB type vehicles. In the last five years, there were over 500 near-miss incidents involving road transport and haulage or tipper type vehicles and overhead power lines where serious injury or death was a possibility.

In 2019, in response to the scale of such incidents, ENAs Public Safety Committee partnered up once more to develop a second new public safety film and awareness raising campaign the second of an envisaged 3 part series. The second video was designed to provide advice to the above target audience as part of the ‘Look Out Look Up’ safety campaign – the key objectives were once again to:

Raise awareness of the risks of overhead power lines; increase understanding of how to deal with them safely; motivate people who may come into contact with power lines to adopt safe behaviours; and encourage people to recognise 105 as the national number for power emergencies across the UK.

The second video was launched in the summer of 2019 and is available via the ENA website, YouTube and shared on the various company web pages. Plans to develop the third and final video of the 3 part Public Safety Campaign series is underway with a launch anticipated in Autumn 2020 which will focus on underground cable strikes and damage (‘Watch Out, Cables About’).

Schools and Children

Throughout 2019 member companies continued to focus on helping to educate school children (primary and secondary school age) to become more aware of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe in the vicinity of electrical equipment. Member Companies regularly shared best practice and other resources via the Public Safety Committee.

‘105’ Telephone Number

September 2016 saw the launch of the new national phone number “105” which is for customers to call should they need to report or get information about a power cut in their area. Additionally:

- *Customers can call 105 if they spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there’s a serious immediate risk, they should call the emergency services too.*

The 105 number therefore provides a means for consumers and workers to quickly report powerline emergencies to their local DNO, e.g. should a piece of work equipment come into contact with a powerline. Work continued throughout 2019 to raise awareness of the 105 single electricity number.

Communications

The 2019 Public Safety Communications Annual Plan was revised and updated to set out actions that will be pursued to raise awareness of the dangers from electricity networks to specific

audiences who may be at a greater risk due to their work or hobbies. The plan aims to deliver timely safety messages to these specific groups in line with seasonal activities (i.e. start of the fishing season). The plan is focused on work undertaken by ENA on a national level but these messages are strengthened when followed up by individual member company engagement with stakeholders on a regional basis. The plan is a living document and is reviewed by the Public Safety Committee at each meeting.

ENA member companies attended a number of shows throughout the year to spread the public safety message.

In 2019 the Public Safety Committee continued to work to review and rationalise the suite of public leaflets hosted on the ENA [website](#). Most of the 21 leaflets have been combined now into approximately 7; this is an option because many of the leaflets contain identical or similar advice – for example three separate leaflets aimed at fire, police and ambulances services were combined into one new ‘emergency services’ leaflet. As part of this project ENA has developed a new cab OHL warning sticker, i.e. for use in tractor and mobile plant cabs.