

The following report (taken from IOSH) is certainly relevant as we all work near OHPL and in the majority of cases these are not isolated.

Please note the comment from the HSE Inspector which I have highlighted in **RED**

Overhead line strike led to multiple amputations

6 October 2017

A scaffolding company and its director have been prosecuted after a worker received an electric shock when the scaffold he was erecting clipped overhead power lines. His injuries were so severe, he had to have multiple amputations.



The scaffolding erected close to the overhead power lines. Image: HSE Swindon Magistrates' Court was told that the structure touched 33 kV overhead power lines on 19 December 2016.

'The shock he received led to the amputation of his left arm above the elbow, right arm below the elbow and both of his feet. The 32-year-old also suffered severe burns to his legs and back, damage to his vocal chords and was in an induced coma for six weeks'.

The Health and Safety Executive investigation found the scaffolding should not have been built so high close to overhead power lines. The company and its director also failed to ensure there was a safe system of work for erecting scaffold under the lines.

Boundary Scaffolding, of Unit 10 Kendrick Industrial Estate, Swindon, pleaded guilty to breaching reg 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. It was fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £1,415 in costs.

Company director Jonathon Lee Griffiths-Clack, of 12 Grosmont Drive, Swindon, pleaded guilty to breaching reg 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and s 37 of the Health and

Safety at Work Act. He was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to repay costs of £1,545.

Two contractors fined after worker severely burned by 11kV power line

27 October 2016

Two East Anglian businesses have been sentenced after an accident involving a power line left one worker with extensive burns.



Image credit: ©iStock/stevenfoley

Norwich Crown Court was told that contract farming company L F Papworth and T W Page & Son, a water supply engineer that serves Norfolk and Suffolk, were working in the Norfolk village of Felmingham, drilling boreholes for crop irrigation.

T. W. Page employee Jonathan Howes was operating the controls of a lorry-mounted drilling rig on 29 April 2014. His co-worker moved the lorry and this caused the drilling rig's mast to strike an 11kV overhead power line.

Howes sustained life-changing injuries, including burns to his scalp, arms, legs and feet. He also lost two toes.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that neither company had taken effective precautions to prevent work equipment, including the mast of the drilling rig, from coming into contact with overhead power lines.

L F Papworth pleaded guilty to breaching s 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. It was fined £134,000 plus costs of £6,484.

T W Page was fined £80,400 and £6,596 costs after it admitted breaching s 2(1) of the same act.

HSE inspector Jessica Churchyard said after the hearing: **“Where hazardous electrical conductors need to be kept live, workers and equipment must be kept at a safe distance from them.**”

“Here, no effective precautions were implemented and workers were put at potentially lethal risk with Mr Howes suffering injuries which will affect him for the rest of his life.”