

Advice to householders:

- Find out where your main fuse board or consumer unit is and how to switch off the electricity in an emergency.
- Keep a note of your electricity company's emergency number.
- Be aware of how the electricity enters your home, is it via an underground cable or an overhead line.
- Check if there are any other electricity lines crossing your property, these could be high voltage lines.

If in any doubt, ask your local electricity company.

For your information

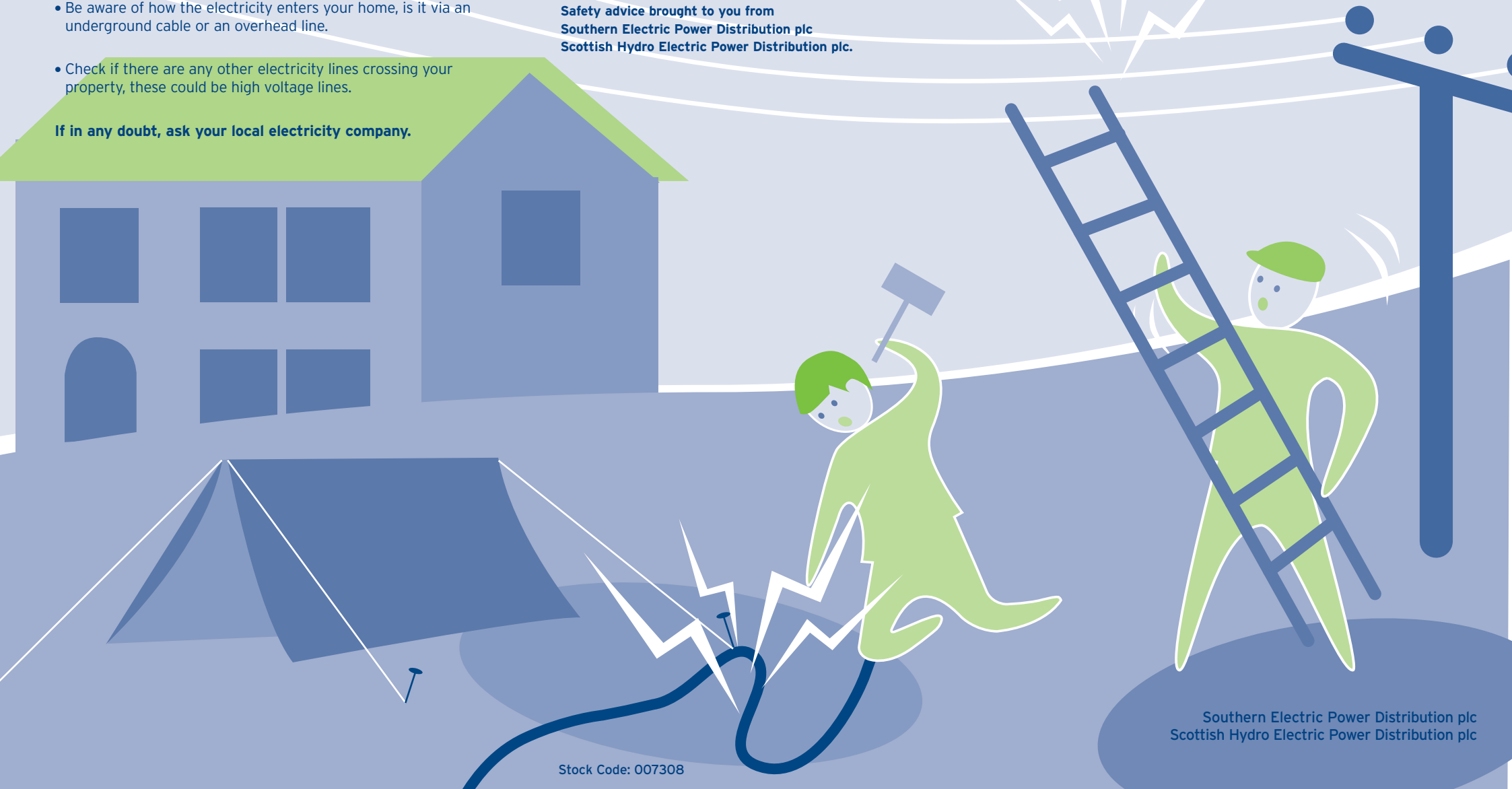
For advice telephone your local electricity company. The number is in the phone book under 'Electricity'.

In an emergency, dial 999 and ask for the police. They will contact the local electricity company.

**Safety advice brought to you from
Southern Electric Power Distribution plc
Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc.**

Watch it!

safety advice when working around the home



There are overhead and underground electricity services carrying voltages from 240 to 132,000 volts in our towns and villages. Contact with any of these can cause serious burns and electric shocks which can be fatal.

The following advice is designed to prevent electrical accidents outside the home.

Keep meter boxes **locked** and clear of obstructions.

Test the earth fault protective device (you may know this as a trip switch or RCD) at least annually.

When working outdoors with power tools, **always** plug an earth fault protective device (RCD) into the socket in the house and then plug the outdoor tool or extension lead into the device.

Always carry long objects, such as ladders, horizontally.

Watch out for overhead electricity cables before you start any jobs that involve using ladders or scaffolding, like pruning the tree, trimming the hedge, cleaning the gutters or cleaning the windows.

Remember you don't have to touch, electricity can jump gaps - so don't get near to it.

If your ladders touch the wires or you stick a fork into a cable - **leave them alone** and contact your local electricity company or the police.

For your own and others' safety, please follow the **do's** and **don'ts** listed below:

do check all electrical tools **before** use. Make sure the flex isn't damaged and that you know how to stop the tool.

do carry long objects, such as ladders horizontally.

do keep a lookout for overhead electricity cables **before** you start any jobs involving ladders or scaffolding.

do make sure you know where any buried cables are **before** any digging starts. If in doubt don't start, ask your local electricity company.

do notify your local electricity company should accidental damage occur to cables or overhead lines.

do keep people well clear of a cable or overhead line that has been damaged.

do remember electricity can jump gaps - so don't get near to it.

do check there are no overhead lines before erecting tents, marquees, or temporary aerials.

don't assume that a cut flex is dead - leave it, switch off and remove the plug at the socket before touching it.

don't burn garden rubbish under overhead lines.

don't carry long objects such as ladders up in the air.

don't use picks or forks to dig in the vicinity of underground cables.

don't handle ladders or other long objects unless you are a safe distance from overhead lines.

don't position ladders where you could come into contact with overhead electricity lines.

don't assume that fallen, broken wires or cable ends are dead - leave them alone and keep other people away. Contact the police or your local electricity company.

