

# Bright Sparks



*PowerNet Bright Sparks tips are designed to help students understand electricity and how to be electricity safety conscious.*

**Question : Why is it that birds can sit on power lines and not get an electric shock ?**

**Answer: `**

It's because electricity running through power lines is always looking for a way to get to the ground, but the birds are not touching anything in contact with the ground.

If you touched a power line while you were in contact with the ground (or standing on a ladder, tree or roof that was touching the ground) electricity would travel through you.

Equally, if your kite or balloon got tangled in a power line and you touched the string, electricity could travel down the string and into you on it's way to the ground.

**Both situations would mean a very serious electric shock.**

People such as PowerNet's linesmen, who work up on power lines don't get electric shocks because they are specially trained to work with electricity. They wear special insulated boots, hardhats, and gloves, and use insulated tools that help prevent shock.

**Be safe, be aware!**

