

Downed Power Line Safety

Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone – and it could do that through your body.

Safety Tips

- If you see a downed power line, **move away from it** and anything touching it. The ground around power lines – up to 35 feet away - may be energized.
- You cannot tell whether or not a power line is energized just by looking at it. You should **assume that all downed power lines are live**.
- The proper way to move away from the power line is to **shuffle away with small steps**, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, **do not touch the person**. You could become the next victim. Call 911 for help.
- **Do not attempt to move a downed power line** or anything else in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Be careful **not to touch or step in water** near where a downed power line is located.
- **Do not drive over** downed power lines.
- If your car comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, **stay in the car**. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away from your car.
- If you must leave your car because it is on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and **avoid contact with both the car and the ground** at the same time. Shuffle away from the car.

