



POWER LINE SAFETY

NNEC is committed to our members' safety. High-voltage power lines are installed out of normal reach to prevent people from coming into contact with these lines. Unfortunately situations occur which bring power lines within easy reach such as a car breaking a utility pole or a tree falling on the lines. Electricity follows the path of least resistance and the human body is a good conductor. Follow these safety guidelines to avoid serious injury or death:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. NEVER touch a power line! Even if downed power lines do not hum, spark or “dance,” they can carry a deadly electric current.
- The proper method to move away from a downed power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together at all times to minimize the chance for a human path of electric current.
- If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do NOT touch the person. Call 911. Make sure the emergency responders are aware of the downed power line!
- Do NOT try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even wood, if wet or damp, can conduct electricity.
- Do NOT drive over downed power lines.
- Teach your children to stay away from utility poles, trees near power lines, and to fly kites or model planes in open fields away from power lines.
- NEVER put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Keep metal ladders or anything that could be a conductor away from overhead lines. Metal pipes and truck booms are excellent conductors for electricity!
- If your vehicle comes into contact with a power line, try to drive away from the wire. If the vehicle won't move, stay in the car. Honk the horn for help and warn others to stay away from the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire, look to locate the fallen wire(s). Jump out of the car with both feet together away from the fallen wire(s). AVOID contact with the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the vehicle.

CALL NNEC IMMEDIATELY DAY OR NIGHT TO REPORT A DOWNED POWER LINE OR OTHER POTENTIAL DANGER WITH A POWER LINE AT 1-866-663-2688!