

# Power Line Safety

Power lines provide our homes and businesses with electricity to help us carry out our daily functions. It is important to remember these lines contain live, high voltage electricity, and any contact or proximity to these lines can result in injury or fatality. For one reason or another, power lines and other utility lines can come down. It is important to remember that all downed lines should be considered energized and dangerous. The following information may help consumers to stay safe in the event of a downed power line:

- *Do not try to move a downed line because it may still be energized and could be potentially dangerous and even fatal.*
- *In the instance of a vehicle accident, those involved should drive away from the power lines, if they can do so, without running over any lines.*
- *The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) recommends that if car accident victims are in imminent danger from a fire or other hazards, they should stay away from the downed lines and jump clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Try to land with feet together and shuffle away in small steps.*
- *Once safely away from the downed line, maintain a distance of at least 30 feet from downed wires and anything they are in contact with, such as puddles of water and fences.*
- *Electricity can travel through the ground, so do not approach downed lines. Stay at least 30 feet away from any downed line.*
- *Contact 911 and your local electric utility. Local emergency crews can block off the area until utility crews are able to de-energize or fix the line.*
- *Even if a downed line appears to be a phone or cable line, it may be an electric line, or it may be touching an electric line at some point, so treat all downed lines as if they are energized.*
- *Be aware that downed lines that are de-energized can become re-energized.*

When reporting downed lines to authorities, you may be asked to provide information such as the nature of the emergency and whether personal injury or danger is involved. You also may be asked to provide the pole number – if you can get that information without putting yourself in danger from the downed power line. It is also important to remember power line safety around the home, as well.

- *Keep all high-reach items such as ladders, tree trimmers or scaffolding away from power lines. Always remember to work in a safe distance from lines when using these pieces of equipment.*
- *If work needs to be done in proximity to power lines or the electric service connection on a home, call the electric utility before performing any work.*
- *Power lines can be located above or underground. When digging, always remember to call Pennsylvania One Call Inc. at 8-1-1 three days before beginning a project that requires digging.*

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

### Write

PA Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

### Call

1-800-692-7380  
For people with speech or hearing loss, dial  
7-1-1 (Telecommunications Relay Service)

### Visit our websites

[www.PAPowerSwitch.com](http://www.PAPowerSwitch.com)  
[www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov)

