



## **Electrical Safety Authority Cautions Ontarians as Major Fall Windstorm Approaches**

MISSISSAUGA, ON, Oct. 31, 2013 /CNW/ - Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) reminds people in Southern and Eastern Ontario about electrical safety precautions during stormy weather. High winds can cause damage to powerlines and interrupt electrical service.

Know what to do to protect yourself, your family and your property during severe weather.

### **Powerlines**

Downed powerlines may be live. Stay at least 35 feet or 11 meters away as electricity can travel through water and the ground around powerlines. Immediately report any downed wires to the Local Distribution Company (local hydro company) and call 911. Remain well back.

Refrain from clearing storm debris until the power is disconnected or powerlines are repaired. Downed powerlines that still have electricity flowing through them may be hidden underneath tree branches and leaves.

If a powerline lands on your vehicle, remain in the vehicle until emergency responders arrive. Exiting a vehicle that has been contacted by a live powerline is extremely dangerous. Similarly, do not attempt to assist someone in a vehicle touched by powerlines.

### **Portable Generators**

When used correctly, portable generators can provide security and comfort during power outages. Only use in dry, well-ventilated areas and never connect portable generators to electrical appliances or wiring components that have been impacted by flood water.

Portable generators can cause electrical hazards if connected or used incorrectly. Check the generator and all component parts to ensure that they have been approved by a recognized certification agency. Portable generators that are permanently installed into your electrical wiring are required to have a transfer device to protect your home and the utility system.

For more electrical safety information please visit [esasafe.com](http://esasafe.com).

For further information:

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## **About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)**

*The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario with specific responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act. As part of its mandate, ESA is responsible for administering regulation in four key areas: the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians; electrical distribution safety; and electrical product safety.*