



Electrical Safety Authority Reminds Ontarians to Be Aware of Electrical Hazards during Stormy Weather

MISSISSAUGA, ON, June 18, 2014 - Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority reminds Ontarians about electrical safety precautions during stormy weather. Yesterday's storm brought down powerlines on 25 cars and a bus in Markham, Ontario, trapping people inside.

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

Powerlines

- Downed powerlines may be live and are extremely dangerous. Stay back at least 10 metres (33 feet). Electricity can travel through water and the ground around powerlines.
- Call 911 and the local electricity distribution company to report any downed lines. Remain well back.
- Wait until the power is disconnected or powerlines are repaired before starting yard clean-up – downed powerlines may be hidden beneath debris and tree branches.
- If a powerline lands on your vehicle, stay in the vehicle until emergency responders arrive. Exiting a vehicle that is in contact with a live powerline is extremely dangerous. Similarly, do not attempt to assist someone in a vehicle touched by powerlines. Stay back at least 10 metres (33 feet).

Flooding and Water Damage at Home

- If water gets into your home, be careful as electrical systems may have been affected. If you suspect damage to your electrical system contact a licensed electrical contractor to make repairs.
- When flood water has risen above electrical outlets or power cords or is near the service panel, do not go into your basement. Contact your local hydro company and arrange for them to disconnect the power immediately. If the main switch on the service panel was left in the "on" position during a power outage, contact your local electricity distribution company to ensure power to the building is off before starting clean up or repairs.
- Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been checked or serviced.

Portable Generators

- When used correctly, portable generators can provide security and comfort during power outages. Use only in dry, well-ventilated areas. Never connect portable generators to electrical appliances or wiring components that have been affected 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. The transfer device prevents electricity from flowing back into the electricity grid which could severely injure or kill utility personnel working to restore power.

For more electrical safety information please visit esasafe.com.

About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario, ESA is responsible for administering specific regulations related to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, the licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians, electricity distribution system safety, and electrical product safety. ESA works extensively with stakeholders throughout the province on education, training and promotion to foster electrical safety across the province. More information on the Electrical Safety Authority can be found at www.esasafe.com, through Twitter @HomeandSafety and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ElectricalSafetyAuthority

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