



Warmer temperatures could cause water damage to Ontario homes this weekend

Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority provides electrical safety tips when flooding occurs.

Mississauga, ON – January 10, 2014 – In the aftermath of the recent winter storms and the milder temperatures expected this weekend, the Electrical Safety Authority is providing the following safety tips to Ontario homeowners if they experience flooding or water damage from the melting snow and ice.

Electrical equipment and wiring that has been exposed to water may be dangerous if re-energized without proper evaluation and reconditioning or replacement by qualified persons.

Residents are reminded to keep the following flood safety tips in mind:

- In the event that flood water has risen above outlets, covers powercords, or is near the service panel stay out of your basement and contact your Local Distribution Company and arrange for them to disconnect power to your home.
- Power should be disconnected at the service by ensuring that the main switch is left in the “off” position until all electrical equipment has been tested.
- Once power has been turned off or disconnected a licensed electrical contractor should be contacted to determine if electrical equipment (wires, plugs) need to be replaced.
- Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been checked or serviced by a licensed electrical contractor or service agency. Ask your contractor, or contact the manufacturer or dealer for the nearest service location.

ESA reminds all homeowners and businesses, including restoration companies, to ensure that the power has been disconnected to the entire property before entering the house to avoid the dangers of shock and electrocution. This includes flooded basements and outbuildings that contain electrical equipment or have an electrical connection.

ESA's website has a searchable database where homeowners and business owners can find a licensed electrical contractor in their area. In order to access this tool and for more electrical safety information please visit esasafe.com.

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.

For additional electrical safety information visit www.esasafe.com

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