



Electrical Safety Authority Cautions Ontarians as Hurricane Sandy Approaches

MISSISSAUGA, ON, Oct. 29, 2012 /CNW/ - Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority reminds people in Southern Ontario about electrical safety precautions during stormy weather. Electrical equipment in homes and businesses can be compromised by high winds and heavy rainfall can damage powerlines, interrupt electrical service and even cause flooding.

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.

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.

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 the repair.

When [flood water](#) has risen above electrical outlets or power cords or is near the service panel, 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 hydro company to ensure power to the building is off before repairs are made.

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. Only use in dry, well ventilated areas and never connect a portable generator 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.

The Electrical Safety Authority

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As a delegated 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.

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