



Power Line Safety Tips

- Keep away from all downed power lines.
 - A power line that touches the ground can shock or kill you even if you do not touch it.
 - The electrical current can travel through the ground and into your body.
- Keep all objects far away from power lines at all times, including:
 - masts.
 - poles.
 - ladders.
 - tools.
 - toys.
- If taking down or moving an antenna, be aware of new lines that have been put up since the antenna was installed.
- Never assume that an overhead power line is electrically insulated.
 - Always assume that contact with any line can be lethal.
- Never place a ladder anywhere near an electrical power line.
- Position non-metal ladders (such as fiberglass) at a height and location that prevents the possibility of you or it contacting a power line.
- Keep the distance from an antenna or pole to the power line at least 1½ times the height of the antenna or pole.
- Properly ground all masts in accordance with electrical codes.
- Be aware that you can be electrocuted by touching a power line directly or by touching a conductive material (such as a metal ladder, antenna, pipe, kite) and, at the same time, the earth or any grounded item (such as metal siding or a downspout).

Source: [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)

Public Safety

Stay Away, Stay Safe

Keep Your Distance from All Fallen Wires



Any downed or fallen wire should be treated as live and dangerous, and you should stay away. Fallen power lines are dangerous because they carry an electric current that can cause serious or even fatal injuries. If you encounter a fallen wire, keep yourself and others away, and call 911 and Southwestern Electric Power Company immediately.

Distance is Your Friend

Under normal conditions, power lines are not supposed to lie on the ground. However, there are circumstances, such as high winds and storms, that can bring down power lines and other utility wires. Downed power lines can be dangerous because they carry an electric current that can instantly injure or cause death.

There is no way for you to determine whether fallen power lines are energized or not because you can't smell, see or hear electricity. Always keep your distance and presume a fallen wire is energized and dangerous.

Also, do not touch anything or anyone the line may be touching. Objects can become energized just by contacting a downed power line. Do not touch any wires because even telephone or cable lines can become energized.

Don't Guess, Stay Away

Never touch a fallen wire, no matter how harmless it may look. Power lines are not insulated or coated like power cords for home appliances. In some instances, power lines may have a coating of weatherproofing material that may

appear to be some form of insulation. It is not an insulating material and does not make the line safe to touch.

It is sometimes difficult even for professionals to tell the difference between energized power lines and other utility lines. Don't guess and stay away from all wires.

Keep Cars Clear, Too

If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, stay put. If you can, honk and lower your windows to alert passers-by. Caution them to stay away from the vehicle and ask them to call the power company and emergency officials.

If you must exit the vehicle, remove all loose items or clothing and jump clear of the vehicle. Avoid touching the car and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together; keep your feet as close together as possible; and shuffle away from the car.

Safety DVD Available

Visit www.swepco.com/go/linesdown to view or order a video clip on the dangers of contacting energized power lines.



For more public safety information, visit: <http://www.swepco.com>