



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

ADA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

APRIL 2018

Anything from a major disaster to a simple car crash could cause a power line to fall and energize whatever it touches. Staying safe means being aware of the surroundings and potential dangers. Any downed power line should be treated as if it is energized even if it is not sparking, smoking, or making a buzzing sound. Remember these safety rules.

Downed Power Line Safety

- ⚡ Stay away from the downed line, Idaho Power Company suggests a distance of 100 yards if possible
- ⚡ Report the incident immediately, in the Treasure Valley call Idaho Power at (800) 488-6151 or dial 911.
- ⚡ Do not touch objects that are near or in contact with the line. If someone else touches it, do not touch them because the electricity may flow to you. Call 911 immediately for assistance.
- ⚡ Be especially aware of your surroundings when driving after a damaging storm. If a power line is down on the ground in water, do not drive your car through the water.

If you are in your vehicle and a power line falls on it, take the following steps:

- ⚡ Stay inside the vehicle and dial 911 if possible. Warn others to stay away and not touch the vehicle.
- ⚡ If it is no longer safe to stay in the vehicle because of a fire or other life threatening situation, open the door and jump out and away from the vehicle as far as possible. Keep your feet together and land on both feet. With your feet side by side, shuffle away from the area. Do not lift either foot or touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

For more power line safety information go to: idahopower.com/about-us/safety/power-line-safety/



Post Disaster Electrical Hazards

There may be a strong desire to immediately begin cleaning things up, but hazards may be waiting within the mess. Floors and objects may be in contact with frayed or broken wires and could be conducting electricity. If there is water in or near electrical circuits or equipment, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse in the service panel (breaker box). For information on how to locate and shut the power off got to:

<https://www.bhg.com/home-improvement/electrical/how-to-turn-off-power/>. Never

touch electrical switches or equipment while standing in water. If the floor is wet in front of the service panel, it may not be safe to approach it; call a professional electrician to turn the power off and inspect the electrical system.



Ada County Emergency Management
7200 Barrister Drive ♦ Boise, ID. 83704 ♦ (208) 577-4750 ♦ FAX (208) 577-4759
HOME PAGE: www.adaprepared.id.gov ♦ E-MAIL: mjeffries@adaweb.net

