



Electrical safety hazard tips for emergency response

- If normal channels don't work, please call us at **(503) 408-3604** or **1-800-245-7575** to report electrical hazards or request power lines and equipment be de-energized. Do NOT assume we have been notified – please check!
- Assess current and potential hazards – take the time to look around you!
- Avoid ALL power lines – those on poles and towers and downed lines.
- Assume that ALL utility lines are energized, and NEVER touch or go near them.
- Most power lines, including coated wires, are NOT insulated.
- Touching or approaching vehicles in contact with power lines can be hazardous.
- Power lines can become re-energized at any time, automatically and/or by remote control.

Step potential – Electrical current can flow through the ground when an energy source is present. Saturated soil increases the hazard.

Touch potential – Conductive objects like fences, vehicles and metal buildings can be energized if in contact with a downed power line or other energy source, and touching an energized object can result in serious injury or death. Objects not normally conductive can become hazardous when contaminated by water, dirt, ash, fire retardant or other substances.

Don't:

- Park emergency vehicles under power lines
- Apply solid-stream water applications or foam sprays on or around energized equipment or lines
- Pull meters or use tools to cut power lines, climb poles or towers
- Attempt to enter a substation or power plant until given the "okay" by utility personnel
- Situate command posts or staging areas within a transmission-tower clear zone

Do:

- Park on the opposite side of the street, at least two pole spans away
- Pay attention to damaged adjacent poles, wires or structures that could be potential hazards
- Wait for power company verification that a downed line has been de-energized
- Save the cutting of power lines and pulling of meters for utility personnel
- Consider ALL downed lines to be energized and keep a safe distance, at least equal to the height of the pole
- Remember potential conductors of electricity (water, metals, ash, heavy smoke, wood)
- Ensure there is no longer contact between the victim and any electrical current before attempting a rescue
- Disconnect power at the main circuit breaker

For more safety information, please visit www.pacificpower.net.