

Downed Power Lines!!!



Please use extreme caution near downed power lines!

Downed power lines can be caused by many occurrences, including wind and storms, ice and freezing rain, motor vehicles and natural disasters. It is critical that you follow the following safety tips around downed power lines:

- Do not go near downed power lines if you can avoid them, **stay at least 10 feet from the wire** and secure the area to keep others away as well.
 - A live wire touching the ground can cause electricity to travel through the ground, radiating outward from the contact point.
- **Never touch or attempt to remove anything that is lying across a downed power line** – tree limbs, especially when they are wet, and many other items, such as fences or guardrails, can be conductors of electricity, causing those touching them to suffer a strong and potentially fatal electric shock.
 - When cleaning up after a storm, make absolutely certain that no power lines are near before cutting or trimming damaged trees and limbs and removing debris from your property.
- **Always assume that a downed wire is an energized power line** and respond accordingly.
 - There is no safe way to tell if a downed power line is live based solely upon looking at it, or even if it is a telephone wire or television cable.
- If you have a downed power line on your vehicle, due to an accident or other reason, unless it is a life threatening situation, **stay in your vehicle**.
 - **Call 911** or ask someone to call 911 for you.
 - Then report the incident to the City's emergency service telephone number at (515) 785-7550.
- If it is absolutely necessary to leave the vehicle, due to fire or other life-threatening hazards, **jump well clear of the vehicle**, making certain to never touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time.
 - Once clear of the vehicle, shuffle away, with both feet on the ground, or hop away, with both feet landing on the ground at the same time.

- **Do not run** – running may cause your legs to “bridge” current from a higher voltage ring to a lower voltage ring.
- If someone else makes contact with a downed power line, **do not try to rescue them** – you risk becoming a victim yourself. **Immediately call 911** for help.

CONTACT: City of Hamilton Emergency Service – (513) 785-7550 or dial 911.

