

SAFETY TIPS

Electrical Safety at home /Safety Near power lines

Electrical Safety at Home

Electricity is unavoidable in modern day living. But it can be dangerous if it is not dealt with properly or treated with respect. To avoid possible injury, treat electricity with respect using these safety tips.

Practice Electrical Safety at Home

- Always contact a certified electrician to do any electrical servicing.
- Equip all outdoor and bathroom outlets with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
- Equip all outlets, unless exempted, with Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs).
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Never stick toys, keys, fingers or anything else into an electrical outlet.
- Do not plug or unplug electrical appliances or tools with wet hands or in wet conditions.
- Replace damaged or frayed cords.
- Do not attempt to disconnect your power meter. It could explode. It is also illegal.
- Use cords with a third prong, and always ensure the third prong remains in use.
- Report any electrical incidents, including fire, shock, powerline contacts, accidents, injuries, or defective electrical equipment & appliances:

https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/custom_downloaded_images/ma-safety-codes-incident-report-form.pdf. More information on Reporting can be found: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/standata-electrical-safety-information-bulletin-legislation-safety-codes-act-interpretations>.

Electrical Safety Near Power Lines

Whether you are building structures or just accessing the roof, it's important to think about how close you might be to power lines. This is for your safety and it's also a requirement of the Alberta Electrical Utility Code and the Canadian Electrical Code which we all must follow. If you build too close to the power lines, you may be required to have the power lines moved at your expense to maintain safe clearances.

Ask yourself, where is the line?

- The Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations must be followed by workers when working next to power lines.
- You must always stay back at least 7 meters (20 feet) from an energized line.
- Ask your utility provider to verify voltage and minimum approach distances before working any closer.
- Contact your utility provider to remove any branches or trees encroaching on electrical power lines, poles or equipment.

SAFETY TIPS

Always avoid overhead power lines, especially when:

- Using a ladder.
- Pruning or cutting trees.
- Cleaning a pool.
- Installing or moving an antenna.
- Working on the roof.
- Carrying long tools or pipes.
- Setting up and moving scaffolding.
- Moving augers, truck boxes, cultivators, air seeders, or similar large objects.

Be safe around fallen and sagging wires

- Always assume a downed power line to be energized.
- Stay at least 10 metres (30 feet) away from downed power lines.
- If you feel a tingling sensation, place your feet together and shuffle or hop out of the area without touching anything.
- Never touch an energized wire with your hand or any other object.
- Do not touch any metallic objects in the area (e.g. chain-link fences).
- If you notice a damaged electrical facility, call 911 or notify your electric utility:
- <https://wherestheline.ca/contact-us>

Teach children to respect electricity

- Never play around power substations, poles, towers, fences, or trees near power lines.
- Never fly kites near overhead power lines.
- Never spray water guns or hoses at power lines.
- Never try to open or poke sticks or other objects into underground transformer boxes.
- Obey 'keep out', 'danger' or 'high voltage' warning signs.