

SAFETY TIPS

Electricity, when not handled safely, can be fatal.

Electricity always seeks a path to the ground, using a conductor. If you touch a live wire while you are grounded, your body will act as a conductor allowing electricity to pass through you to the ground, giving you an electric shock. The strength of the shock and the extent of the injuries sustained vary. An electrical shock can burn, cut, cause internal bleeding, or kill.

Practice safety first.

Inside:

- Don't use an electrical appliance around water or with wet hands.
- Never put anything other than the correct plug into an electrical outlet.
- Keep your cords in good shape and discard them if they are frayed or worn.
- Keep cords away from water and heat.
- Cover unused outlets with safety covers.
- Eliminate octopus connections.
- When changing a fuse, turn off the breaker.
- Only use the correct size fuse.
- Make sure all appliances have an approved label by an authorized agency, like the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Disconnect appliances before cleaning.
- Don't use water to put out an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher or baking soda.

A large, stylized word "CAUTION" in blue and red, with a 3D effect and a shadow.

Outside:

- Always exercise extreme caution when you are working or playing near power lines. A line flowing less than 750 volts is capable of injuring or killing someone who touches or comes too close to it.
- When you are carrying long tools or ladders, or are operating equipment of some height, be careful to avoid all contact with overhead lines.
- If you do strike a power line, remain on the equipment because getting off creates a path to the ground, which could be fatal.

Teach your children!

Electricity is safe, provided it is used properly. Teach children to play safely ... away from hydro wire.

- Remind youngsters to avoid areas marked "keep out" or "danger" and never to pole or push things into electrical outlets.
- Warn children of the danger of touching power lines. If kites or model airplanes touch overhead line, even touching their string or control line may cause serious injury.
- Climbing hydro poles, towers, or fences surrounding electrical equipment or climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.
- Children could fall or touch a wire and be injured or killed.

Electrical Emergency – Rescue

If someone inside a building receives a shock from a faulty appliance and is still in contact with it, don't touch the appliance before unplugging it from the wall socket.

If a person or vehicle touches an outdoor wire, don't touch either the person or vehicle. Call your local emergency service of Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation to get help or the power shut off.

Once the victim is free from the power line or faulty appliance, begin first aid. If unconscious, and either not breathing or breathing erratically, use artificial respiration immediately ... every second counts. Have someone call your local emergency service for an ambulance. Don't leave the victim unattended.

- Don't touch a person who has been struck by a power line or the equipment they are on, while the victim is still in contact with the live power line.
- Never climb a fence protecting electrical equipment to retrieve something that has gone over.
- Never fly a kite near overhead power lines. Touching an overhead wire with any part of a kite could cause injury or death.
- Never touch wires that may have come down. They may be live.
- Remain in your vehicle during a storm. If struck by lightning or a fallen power line, your rubber tires will stop the flow of electricity.
- If caught outside during an electrical storm, stay away from open areas and trees. Never swim during an electrical storm. Water is an excellent conductor for electricity.

If the victim is in shock, reassure them and keep them warm, but don't apply heat. Loosen clothing about the neck, chest and waist. If the victim is thirsty, give sips of water, tea, coffee or other liquids except alcohol.

If burned, avoid handling the affected area. Do not apply lotions, break blisters or remove burned clothing. If possible, cover the burns including clothing with a prepared dry sterile dressing. Where the skin is blistering, bandage loosely, otherwise apply bandages firmly. Don't use gauze, cotton, wool or other material that is likely to stick.

Place an unconscious person gently on one side (the St. John Ambulance recovery position) and don't attempt to give them anything to eat or drink.

In an emergency, remain calm and call your local emergency service for help.