

Spring Storm Safety Tips

Spring is here, and with it comes the potential for strong winds and flooding from heavy rain storms or melting snow. As we prepare for warmer weather, Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation and the Electrical Safety Authority want to ensure that you and your family are prepared for potential electrical safety hazards, such as downed powerlines resulting from heavy winds and flooding.

In the community:



- ✓ Downed powerlines may be live. Stay at least 35 feet or 11 meters away as electricity can travel through water and the ground around powerlines. Immediately call 911 and then report any downed wires to Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation at 705-864-0111. Stay well back.
- ✓ Flood waters can damage electrical equipment. In the event of a flood, assume electrical equipment is unsafe, and contact a licensed electrical contractor before reconnecting any equipment.
- ✓ If a powerline lands on your vehicle, remain in the vehicle until emergency responders arrive. Exiting a vehicle that has been contacted by a live powerline is extremely dangerous and potentially fatal. Similarly, do not attempt to assist someone in a vehicle touched by powerlines. Call 911 immediately and stay well back.

Around your home:



- ✓ Strong winds can bring trees, branches and other items down onto powerlines causing blackouts and electrically charged hazards. Inspect the trees surrounding your property and call Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation at 705-864-0111 to trim branches away from overhead powerlines.
- ✓ Heavy rainfall in addition to melting snow and ice can contribute to flooding. Beware if water gets into your home as electrical systems may be affected. If you suspect damage to your electrical system, contact a licensed electrical contractor to make the necessary repairs. You can find a licensed electrical contractor in your area at esasafe.com.
- ✓ When flood water rises above electrical outlets and/or power cords or approaches the area of your service panel, it could be energized. Contact Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation at 705-864-0111 to disconnect the power immediately.
- ✓ Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been checked by a licensed electrical contractor or serviced by the manufacturer.

For more information on electrical safety when stormy weather hits, visit:
http://www.powerlinesafety.info/stormy_weather.php.