



Downed or damaged power lines

Accidents, storms, and other acts of nature can cause damage to power lines. While driving, take these precautions:

- **BE ALERT** for downed power lines hidden by debris, fallen trees, water, or snow.
- **CALL 911** immediately regarding ANY downed line.
- **KEEP** yourself and your vehicle as far away from downed lines as possible. **DO NOT** drive over or near them.
- **ALWAYS** obey road closure signs and barricades.
- **STAY** in your vehicle. Downed lines can energize the ground and nearby objects, including trees, fences, and guardrails.
- **ASSUME** every downed or low-hanging line is energized and dangerous. An energized line may not spark, smoke, or make any noise.
- **NEVER** approach or attempt to move a downed line with a branch, pole, or stick.



Downed power line safety tips



- **Serious injury or death** can result from standing near, walking near, or contacting downed power lines.
- Assume every downed or low-hanging line is **energized and dangerous**. An energized line may not spark, smoke, or make any noise.
- **Call 911** immediately.
- Stay **at least 30 feet away**. Downed lines can energize the ground and nearby objects.
- **Never approach or attempt to move a line** under any circumstances.



Scan this QR code for tips on driving safely through work zones.



Power line safety for drivers

Downed power lines create dangerous situations for drivers!

Learn how to recognize the dangers and stay safe.



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Scan this QR code for more safety tips.

drivers.ngridsafety.com

Accidents involving electrical equipment

It's natural to want to get out of your vehicle quickly after a crash. But when power lines are involved, that instinct can be lethal. Instead, assume the area around your vehicle is **extremely dangerous** and take these steps:



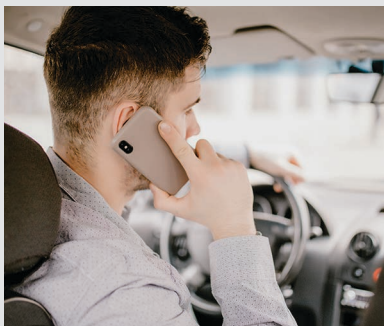
DO NOT exit the vehicle. If it can be moved safely, drive the vehicle away from electrical equipment. If not, stay in your vehicle.



WARN bystanders to stay *at least 30 feet away*. Individuals on the ground who touch or approach the electrical equipment or the vehicle may be injured or killed.



CALL 911 and wait for utility workers to arrive and de-energize the power lines.



Follow these same procedures if you crash into a pad-mounted transformer (like this one).



STAY in your vehicle!

Exit the vehicle ONLY if forced out by smoke or fire:

1. **Plan** your exit route to avoid contact with sagging or downed lines.
2. **Jump** clear of your vehicle. **DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
3. **Land** with your feet together and shuffle away with small steps. Keep your feet close together and on the ground at all times. **DO NOT** allow the heel of one foot to pass the toes of the other.
4. **Shuffle** at least **30 feet away** and **DO NOT** return to the vehicle.

If you **MUST** leave the vehicle, **JUMP CLEAR.**

DO NOT take large steps! Shuffle with feet close together.

Know how to do the shuffle

Why do you need to shuffle away from downed power lines?

Downed power lines can energize the ground with high-voltage electricity. The voltage is strongest where the power lines touch the ground or an object and gets lower with distance from that point. If you walk normally across an energized area, electricity may travel up one leg and down through the other to get from a higher-voltage to a lower-voltage zone. This could cause a serious or fatal electrical shock.

Shuffling keeps one foot in a similar voltage zone as the other foot, making electrical shock less likely.