



For immediate release

January 11th, 2008

Storm Safety Alert

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR WHEN STORM WEATHER HITS

Mississauga, ON – Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority warns the public to follow basic safety steps during stormy weather.

Electrical equipment and wiring that has been exposed to water through flooding may be dangerous if re-energized without proper evaluation and reconditioning or replacement by qualified persons.

Upon returning home after a flood homeowners should stay clear of any electrical powerlines and wires and immediately report these to the Local Distribution Company.

Electrical Equipment Following a Flood - No part of a flooded installation can be assumed safe, not even the main breaker. Before the equipment is tested or worked on all power should be disconnected at the service panel with the main switch being left in the "off" position until work has been completed. In the event that flood water has risen above outlets, covers power cords, or is near the service panel contact your Local Distribution Company to disconnect power to your home. Once power has been turned off or disconnected a licensed electrical contractor should be contacted to determine if electrical equipment (wires, plugs) needs to be replaced.

Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been checked or serviced by an electrician or service agency. Ask your electrician, or contact the manufacturer or dealer for the nearest service location.

Portable Emergency Generators can cause electrical hazards if connected or used incorrectly. Check your generator and all component parts to ensure that they have been approved by a recognized certification agency. For a list of recognized certification agencies visit www.esasafe.com.

Ontario's Electrical Safety Code requires generators to be connected to a wiring system with an approved transfer device. The device prevents Utility power from entering your home when a generator is in use; and prevents generator power from flowing back onto the Utility system.

For additional information contact:

Ted Olechna, Provincial Code Engineer. (905) 712-5366



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (RADIO) – immediate release

January 11th

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR WHEN STORM WEATHER HITS

Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority warns the public to follow basic safety steps during stormy weather.

At all times stay a minimum of 35 feet away from downed powerlines and report these immediately to your Local Distribution Company (Electric Utility). Also note that electrical equipment and wiring that has been exposed to water through flooding may be dangerous if re-energized without proper evaluation and reconditioning or replacement by qualified persons.

Electrical equipment following a Flood **should not be re-energized without proper reconditioning or replacement**. Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been checked or serviced by an electrician or service agency.

Before addressing a flood situation power should be disconnected at the service panel. In the event that flood water has risen above outlets, covers power cords, or is near the service panel contact your Local Distribution Company to disconnect power to your home. Once power has been turned off or disconnected a licensed electrical contractor should be contacted to determine if electrical equipment (wires, plugs) or appliances need to be replaced.

Ensure your "Portable Emergency Generator" includes a transfer device to prevent Utility power from entering your home when in use; and to prevent generator power from flowing back onto the Utility system. In addition, check to ensure your generator and its components are approved by a recognized certification agency.

For additional information contact:
Ted Olechna, Provincial Code Engineer (905) 712-5371