

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND YOUR HOME

Every year, there are injuries and fatalities resulting from accidental contact with power lines.

**Remember:** any contact with power lines or faulty electrical equipment can seriously harm or kill you. When working around your home, assess the hazards before you begin a job. Call Toronto Hydro-Electric System at 416.542.8000, or your local electric company, for assistance or information if you are unsure of the risks and hazards associated with the electrical distribution system.

## Toronto Hydro-Electric System Safety Spotlight

*Here are some important safety tips for you and your family*

The Safety Spotlight is a simple way for you to make sure your work area is safe. Put an imaginary spotlight on everything above, below and around your work area, to identify and avoid these hazards. Look up, look down, and look around - you can effectively prevent household injury.



### Look Up

- For overhead wires
- For people working above you
- For broken or hanging tree branches
- For tools, supplies or debris that could fall

### Look Down

- For underground power lines
- For buried outdoor lighting cables
- For loose tools, debris and materials that might cause slips, trips and falls
- For water pooled near power tools or cords, or underfoot
- To make sure you are wearing safe clothing, footwear, eye and ear protection for the job

### Look Around

- For other people working around you
- For pets, animals, insect nests and other distractions
- For power lines in any direction
- To make sure your ladder or scaffold is secured on level ground
- To make sure your power equipment is plugged into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) plugs using Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved extension cords with no visible damage

## Home Safety

- Stay clear of downed power lines - they could be energized. Call Toronto Hydro-Electric System or your local electric company to report the location of the wire. It is important to remember that even low voltage service wires (120/240V) can cause serious or fatal injuries.
- Be extremely cautious when using a ladder around electrical wires. Whether you're trimming trees, cleaning eavestroughs, or installing an antenna, look up and evaluate any hazards before you start to work.
- Take time to check the area for power lines before using heavy equipment so there's no risk of contact.
- Do not try to rescue cats or other animals from hydro poles or power lines. Call us or your local electric company to report the situation.
- Inspect electric lawn mowers and power tools before each use. Look for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked and broken housings. If you spot any damage, do not use the equipment. Have it repaired or replaced.
- Do not use electric mowers on wet grass. Never use electric power tools in the rain or near water sources and always unplug them when not in use - even during a short break.
- Before you dig in your yard, call for information about the location of underground power lines. Not only could cutting into a cable black out the neighbourhood, it could also kill you.  
For more details, [click here](#).
- Basement flooding is a common occurrence in the spring. If your basement is filled with water, turn off the power before you enter. If your electrical service is in the basement, call Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited or your local electric company for advice before you mop up.

