



Respect Downed Power Lines

Always assume power lines are energized.

When electricity comes into contact with a person or something he or she is touching, the results can be deadly. One's natural instinct is to get out of a car if power lines are dangling near or across it. In almost all cases, that is the wrong thing to do. Instead:

- If power lines come in contact with your vehicle, stay inside until help arrives, unless the vehicle is in imminent risk of catching on fire. If the line is energized and you step out of the car, your body becomes the path for the electricity, and you can be electrocuted.
- Call or signal for help, and wait until the electric utility shuts off the power.
- If the vehicle is on fire—or you smell gas, and have reason to believe the car is going to ignite—jump from the vehicle, with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not merely step out. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.