

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

DOWNED POWER LINE SAFETY TIPS

Overhead power lines are vital to our energy infrastructure. They help transmit and distribute electricity to businesses, homes, and industry throughout our community. At times, overhead powerlines can be knocked down by severe weather events and by other means, such as car accidents. When this happens, it is important that you know what to do to be safe.



Stay Away from Downed Power Lines!

Part of staying safe is being aware of potential dangers within your surroundings. Any downed power line should be treated as if it is energized and dangerous, even if it is not sparking, smoking, or making a buzzing sound.

[Idaho Power](#) provides the following safety tips if you come across a downed power line:

- Stay at least 100 feet away from any downed power line and warn others do the same. Call Idaho Power immediately at 208-388-2323 or 1-800-488-6151 outside the Treasure Valley, or call 911.
- Never touch or use anything to move a downed power line.
- Never try to move anything that is near or touching a downed power line, including tree limbs.
- If someone touches a downed power line and is electrocuted, stay away from them. As much as you would like to help, you can become electrocuted yourself. Instead, call 911 immediately (Idaho Power, n.d.).

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE:

[Idaho Power](#) provides the following safety tips if a power line falls on your vehicle:

- Staying in your vehicle is the safest option. Remain in your vehicle, call 911, and wait for emergency crews to help you.
- If others approach your vehicle to help, warn them not to touch the vehicle, but to call 911 and wait for emergency crews to help.

Only if you are forced to evacuate your vehicle because a life-threatening situation, such as a fire, Idaho Power recommends evacuating in the following manner:

- While being aware of your surroundings, very carefully find a way to jump out of the vehicle as far away as possible with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. When doing so, DO NOT touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Keeping your feet together on the ground, shuffle away from the area to at least 100 feet away from the scene. (Idaho Power, n.d.).

To see a demonstration of this, please watch this video produced by Idaho Power:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EteDWTAQUVM>

References

Idaho Power. (n.d.). General Safety Measures. Retrieved from: [Link to Site](#)
Idaho Power. (n.d.). Overhead Lines. Retrieved from: [Link to Site](#)