

Topic: Power Failure

Power outages happen throughout our Province for a number of reasons, including downed power lines from motor vehicle accidents or trees falling on lines in wind or ice storms.

WHAT TO DO DURING A POWER OUTAGE

(Information provided by BC Hydro)

1. Check whether the power failure is limited to your home/business. If your neighbour's power is still on, check your circuit breaker panel or fuse box.
2. **Call BC Hydro at 1 888 POWERON** (1 888 769 3766) or *HYDRO (*49376) on your cell phone. Tell hydro about the outage so they can send the right crews and equipment to the right location.
3. Tune into your local radio station (using a battery operated or crank radio) for storm and power outage updates.
4. **Turn Off All Appliances** (especially ones that were just in use)
 - a. All power tools (at work or at home) - turn off or unplug
 - b. Stove (and/or any cooking appliances)
 - c. Computers (at work or at home) - prevent damage from power surges
 - d. Hair dryers, curling irons, etc.
 - e. Turn off all lights except one inside and one outside. This will let you and BC Hydro Crews know when the power is back on.



5. Never use a camp stove, barbeque, and propane or kerosene heaters indoors.
6. **Use Candles** with extreme caution; **NEVER LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED.**
7. Have an **Emergency Kit** of Essentials stored at home **under your bed**. **Your employer should have emergency supplies for the workplace.**
 - a. Flashlights
 - b. Battery-operated clock and radio
 - c. Extra batteries
 - d. Corded telephone
 - e. Non-perishable ready to eat foods
 - f. Bottled water
 - g. Warm blanket
8. Keep extra flashlights handy; for example, have one in your glove box, and one close to your front door.



ABOUT FALLEN POWER LINES

1. If the power outage at your home or at work is due to a fallen power line:
 - a. **Never approach**
 - b. Stand back at least 10 meters (33 feet) from the wires or anything in contact with them
 - c. Warn others to stay back
 - d. Always assume that the lines and anything they are in contact with are energized, including the ground
2. If you are in a vehicle when a power line falls:
 - a. Stay where you are, it may be dangerous to exit
 - b. If you can safely back the vehicle away from contact with the lines do so
 - c. Warn others to stay clear of the power line
 - d. Call for help
 - e. If you must leave your vehicle (only if you must), keep your feet together, hold your arms tightly at your sides, jump clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time and shuffle away

