

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL SAFETY HAZARDS IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS

When flood water makes contact with electrical systems it leads to a heightened risk of electric shock that could result in serious injury or death. Follow these electrical safety steps; it could save your life, or the lives of first responders and utility personnel working in the area:

Flooding has occurred

- **Do not enter your basement or outbuildings** if you know or suspect water has risen above the level of electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or is near your electrical panel. Electricity can move through water or wet flooring and cause a severe electrical shock.
- **Call your local electric utility immediately to disconnect power** in the event that flood water has risen above outlets, baseboard heaters or your furnace, covers power cords, or is near the electrical panel.
- **Watch out for downed powerlines.** If you see one, stay back 10 metres (33 feet) or the length of a school bus. Call 911 and your local electric utility to report it.

Evacuation

Before you leave your home and if there is **no** floodwater in your basement:

- **Disconnect the power to your home** by ensuring that the main switch by your electrical panel is left in the “off” position before you go.
- **Move electrical devices** out of your home or to an area in the house above the expected level of flood water. Do not use these products if they have been in contact with flood water.

4 steps to deal with water damaged electrical systems

1. **Do not enter your basement or outbuildings** if you know or suspect water has risen above the level of electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or is near your electrical panel.
2. **Call your local electric utility immediately to disconnect power** in the event that flood water has risen above outlets, baseboard heaters or your furnace, covers power cords, or is near the electrical panel.
3. **Evaluate your home’s electrical system** to determine if it is safe to have power restored to your home. Your utility may not be able to restore power to your property until necessary repairs have been made. ESA strongly recommends you hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to do the evaluation and repairs. You can find a Licensed Electrical Contractor at www.esasafe.com
 - The contractor will file for an electrical permit with ESA so there is a record of the work;
 - When the contractor completes the work, the contractor will notify ESA and the ESA Inspector will confirm work has been done safely and power can be reconnected;
 - ESA will inform the utility that it is safe to reconnect;
 - The utility will reconnect when it is able to do so.
4. **Obtain a copy of ESA’s Certificate of Inspection** from the contractor for your records and insurance.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

ESA is an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario with specific responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act. As part of its mandate, ESA is responsible for administering regulation of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, licensing of Electrical Contractors, and Master Electricians, electrical distribution safety, and electrical product safety.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY AUTHORITY:**

**1-877-372-7233
www.esasafe.com**