

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT ELECTRICITY  
**CAN HURT YOU**



**MÉFIEZ-VOUS**  
DE CE QUE VOUS NE SAVEZ PAS  
À PROPOS DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

**1-800-663-6272**

For additional information on electrical safety  
including safe clearance distances, visit [www.nbpower.com](http://www.nbpower.com)



**Énergie NB Power**

**Myth: Once a power line is down, it's dead.**

*Power lines are never safe to touch. Even a fallen power line can re-energize at any time. If you see a downed power line, call NB Power immediately.*

**Myth: Wood won't conduct electricity.**

*The reality is that wood, even when apparently dry, contains enough moisture to deliver a deadly dose of electricity.*

**Myth: Rubber boots, gloves and tires will protect you from electrical shock.**

*Domestic rubber boots, gloves and even tires DO NOT provide adequate protection against electrical shock. Something as small as a pinhole in even properly rated rubber is enough to allow electricity to find its way through.*

**Myth: It takes high voltage to kill.**

*Even household voltages can be fatal. Any sustained electrical shock, even at low voltage, can have serious consequences including irregular heartbeat or even death.*

**Myth: It's safe to go into a substation to retrieve a ball or Frisbee.®**

*It's a fact that thousands of volts of electricity travel through NB Power substations. Everything in a substation can carry a lethal charge.*

**Myth: It's safe to remove the third prong from a plug.**

*It is never safe to remove the third prong or ground from a plug. This is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution. Removing the third prong could diminish the grounding capabilities of the tool or appliance and can result in serious injury or even death in certain conditions.*

*Most of us think we know everything we need to know about electrical safety. We use electricity every day, and it's easy to take it for granted. But it can seriously harm and even kill you. There are a lot of myths and half-truths surrounding electricity. Here are some facts that can help you prevent needless injury and death.*

## PREVENTION

### *In the home:*

- Keep electrical appliances away from water.
- Wall sockets can only handle two plugs safely. Do not overload.

### *Outside the home:*

#### *Overhead lines*

Overhead lines are not insulated with a protective covering. Most electrical accidents occur when people or something they're carrying or driving makes contact with overhead lines.

- If you're carrying anything like a ladder or operating equipment, make sure you're putting enough distance between the equipment and the overhead line – at least 3.6 metres (12 feet).
- Maintain the same safe distance of 3.6 metres (12 feet), if you are pruning or cutting trees. Make sure the branch or tree can't touch or fall on a line. If a tree does fall onto a line, stay 10 metres (33 feet) away from the tree.

#### *Digging:*

Underground power lines are well-insulated but can be damaged and create a shock hazard. Before you start digging, call our toll-free number 1-800-663-6272 (at least two working days in advance) and we will work with you to locate any underground lines.

## EMERGENCIES

- Do not throw water on an electrical fire, use a multi-purpose fire extinguisher or baking soda.
- If you're in a vehicle that is near a fallen power line, stay in the vehicle and try to drive away. Once you are a safe distance away from the fallen line (10 metres/33 feet), call for emergency assistance.
- If you're in a vehicle that's touching a power line or is carrying something that's touching a power line, it can be safest to stay put. If there is no fire or other dangers, stay in the vehicle.
- If your vehicle is on fire, open the doors as wide as you can while keeping your feet inside. Then put both feet together at the edge of the opening. Jump 0.6 - 0.9 metres (2-3 feet) clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Never touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Move 10 metres (33 feet) away by keeping both feet on the ground and shuffling your feet or by jumping with both feet together.