

PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Downed Power Lines

(NAPSA)—Winter weather and car accidents are a main cause of downed power lines. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) warns consumers to use extreme caution should they encounter a downed line, and offers these tips:



Downed power lines should be avoided at all costs.

- Move away from any downed line you see and anything touching it. Shuffle away with small steps, feet close together and on the ground at all times.

- Do not touch anyone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line. Call 911.

- Do not use another object to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line. Even wood, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity.

- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and to keep others away. If you must leave the car, jump out with both feet together to avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time.

- Assume that any downed line you see is an energized power line, and report it immediately to the police, fire department and your local electric utility.

These and other electrical safety tips are available at ESFI's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org or by phone at 703-841-3229.