



For immediate release  
**Flood Safety Alert**

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

## **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS – DEALING WITH FLOODING**

Mississauga, ON – Significant rainfall over recent days has resulted in numerous reports of flooding of homes and buildings across the province. Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority warns the public to follow basic safety steps in response to flooding.

Electrical equipment and wiring that has been exposed to water through flooding may be dangerous if re-energized without proper evaluation and reconditioning or replacement by qualified persons.

**In the event of flooding in the home** - Stay clear of basement flooding when it covers outlets, extension cords or powerbars as flood water could be energized. Contact your Local Distribution Company (Electrical Utility) to disconnect power to your home prior to entering these areas to start clean-up.

**Electrical equipment following a flood** - No part of a flooded installation can be assumed safe, not even the main breaker. Before testing or work begins on equipment, power should be disconnected at the service panel with the main switch left in the "off" position until work has been completed. Contact your Local Distribution Company to disconnect power to your home in the event that flood water rises above outlets covers or power cords, or approaches the service panel. Once power has been turned off or disconnected, a Licensed Electrical Contractor should be consulted to determine if electrical equipment (wires, plugs) needs to be replaced.

Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been exposed to flood water until they have been checked by a qualified service technician. Consult with a Licensed Electrical Contractor, or contact the manufacturer or dealer for the nearest service location.

With rain forecasted into the weekend across much of the province, Electrical Safety Authority encourages Ontarians to visit [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com) for more flood safety information, or to access a list of Licensed Electrical Contractors by city.

For additional information contact:  
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