

Electrical Safety Tips – Dealing with Storm Safety and Flooding

Mississauga, ON – In the aftermath of a severe storm the 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 recondition or replacement by qualified persons.

In the event of flooding homeowners should stay clear of basements where floodwater has covered electrical outlets, extension cords, or powerbars. This floodwater could be energized. Contact your Local Distribution Company (your electrical utility) to disconnect power to your home prior to entering these areas to start clean-up.

Dealing with Electrical Equipment Following a Flood – No part of a flooded installation should be assumed safe, not even the main breaker. Once the Local Distribution Company has disconnected power, the main switch of the service panel in your home should be turned to the off position until work has been completed. A Licensed Electrical Contractor should be consulted to determine if electrical equipment needs to be replaced or repaired.

Electrical equipment and appliances that have been exposed to flood waters should not be plugged in or used until they have been checked by a qualified service technician. Consult with a Licensed Electrical Contractor or contact the Manufacturer for the nearest service location.

Ensure your “Portable Emergency Generator” includes a transfer device to prevent Utility power from entering your home when in use; and to prevent generator power from flowing back onto the Utility system. In addition, check to ensure your generator and its components are approved by a recognized certification agency.

For more information on responding to flooding and a list of Licensed Electrical Contractors, visit www.esasafe.com.

For additional information contact:

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