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# PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR CREW AND THE PUBLIC

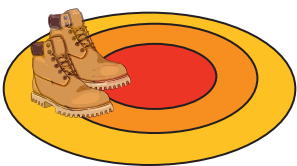
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## STAY SAFE NEAR DOWNED POWER LINES

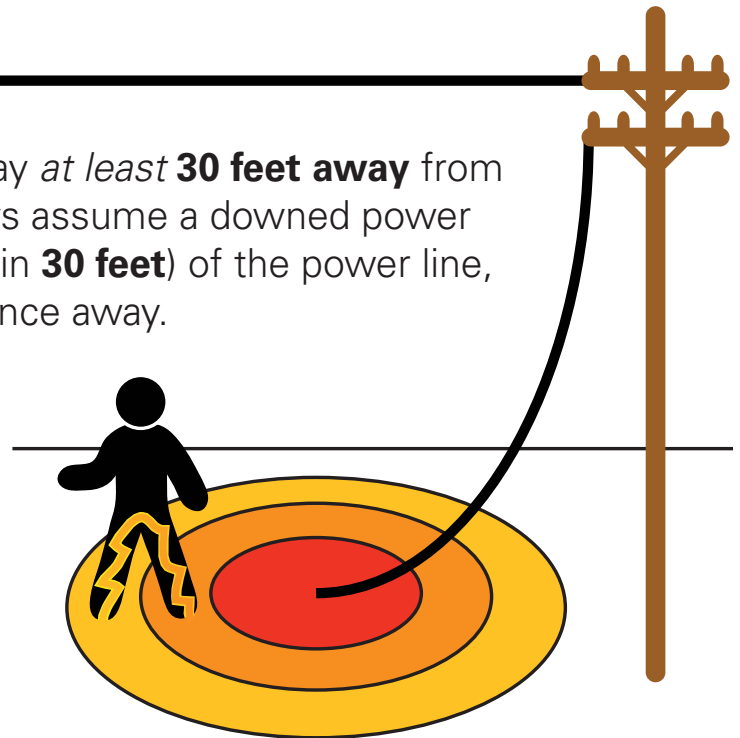
If you see a sagging or downed power line, stay *at least 30 feet away* from it and anything it is touching. Notify 911. Always assume a downed power line is energized. If you are in the vicinity (within **30 feet**) of the power line, use the shuffle technique to move a safe distance away.

### THE SHUFFLE TECHNIQUE

The technique involves shuffling away, keeping your feet close together and on the ground at all times, NOT taking large steps, and NOT allowing the heel of one foot to pass the toes of the other. You must continue shuffling until you are *at least 30 feet away* from the line and any objects that may be energized. Downed transmission lines from large towers require *at least 100 feet* of clearance.



Always maintain the maximum distance possible from any downed line.



### STEP POTENTIAL

The shuffle technique minimizes step potential, the voltage difference between the two feet of a person standing near an energized, grounded object. If you walk or run across this energized area, the voltage between your feet will differ. Electricity always wants to flow from an area of higher voltage to an area of lower voltage, so it will use your legs as a path, resulting in electrocution or serious injury. However, when you shuffle with your feet close together, both feet remain in areas of similar voltage. This reduces step potential and your risk of injury.

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