



**STATE OF OHIO**  
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MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **State Officials Urge Residents to Use Extreme Caution During Power Outages**

Columbus, OH--As repair crews continue work to restore power to the 60,000 Ohio customers who remain without it, state officials remind residents to use extreme caution by avoiding areas with downed power lines and unplugging appliances to avoid power surges.

“Downed power lines and power surges are very dangerous during the restoration process,” said ODPS Director Thomas Charles. “Residents should avoid downed lines and never touch them. If concerned about power lines, residents should call the police to report them.”

### **Downed power lines are not safe to touch or be near, whether they are on the ground or caught in fallen trees.**

Power lines are not insulated like home extension cords, and must never be picked up or moved by individuals other than electrical utility workers. Other lines, such as cable TV or telephone lines can become energized if they contact fallen, active power lines. To be safe, never touch or attempt to move any fallen lines.

### **If you are operating an electrical generator, notify your power company.**

A working generator can feed current into the power lines, creating a danger for repair workers. In addition, when power is restored, this can create a fire hazard to the generator itself.

### **Appliances in the home should be turned off during a power failure.**

When power is restored, higher voltage surges are possible and may cause damage to some devices. Turning off or unplugging appliances, including television sets, will help prevent surges or circuit overloads when service is restored. Leave one light on to know when power is restored.

### **What should I do if I see a downed power line?**

DO NOT TOUCH OR ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE LINE. The current running through the line can be deadly. You should contact emergency personnel and the electric company immediately. Stay a safe distance from the line at all times.

### **If you experience frequent outages, what should you do?**

All outages should be immediately reported to your electric company. The company must keep a record of all outages. If you are not satisfied with the reliability of your electric service, you can contact the PUCO's toll free call center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826). If warranted, the PUCO can ask for the company's records of outages in your area. At that point, the PUCO will choose the best course of action.

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