

Pierce Pepin reminds public of electrical safety involving motor vehicle crashes

Ellsworth, WI – Motor vehicle crashes involving utility poles occur often, sometimes bringing live power lines to the ground or directly on top of a vehicle.

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services reminds the public to take extreme caution if you're in an accident involving downed power lines. Since you can't tell by looking if a power line is energized, follow these steps to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

- Stay calm and remain in your vehicle until help arrives. The rubber tires will help insulate the vehicle from the ground, keeping any electric current from flowing through the vehicle and you. Call 911 for help or honk your horn to alert bystanders.
- If someone stops to help, immediately warn them not to come anywhere near the vehicle or power line. They could become a path for electricity and be injured or killed. Ask them to phone 911 and contact the local electric utility immediately.
- Wait in your vehicle until qualified electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it's safe to leave the vehicle.
- If you have to leave the vehicle because of fire or other danger, open the door, tuck in your arms and jump away from the vehicle so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Then hop with both feet together so that your feet land on the ground at the same time; or shuffle away keeping both feet together and in contact with the ground. Don't walk or run.

“If the power line is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result,” says Mike Most, Vice President of Electric Operations. “Even if a power line has landed on the ground, it's still possible that the area near the vehicle is energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or a probable risk of danger. It's best to wait for local electric utility crews to arrive to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

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About Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services is an energy services cooperative located in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, offering electric utility and appliance products and services to homes and businesses. PPCS also offers propane products and services through its subsidiary, Pierce Pepin Propane Services. As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services is committed to excellence, innovation and integrity, and is dedicated to helping its communities live better. For more information, call 1-800-924-2133 or visit www.piercepepin.com.