

# AFTER A WILDFIRE

## ELECTRICAL HAZARDS AFTER A WILDFIRE

### BEWARE OF DOWN POWER LINES

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- **PRO TIP:** Always assume that all downed power lines are energized and live!
  - Call **9-1-1** if you come across a downed power line and notify your local utility company of the hazard.
  - If you come across a downed power line, **MOVE AWAY** from it and any debris or vegetation surrounding it. Live lines can energize objects up to 35 feet away.
  - If you come across a downed line, carefully shuffle away using small steps. Keep your feet together and on the ground at all times as this can help minimize electrical shock.
  - Be aware of downed power lines in the road - Never drive over a downed power line. Stay in your car, call 9-1-1 for help, and honk your horn to warn others approaching. If you must exit your vehicle due to an engine fire, jump out of the car with both feet together and avoid touching the car and ground at the same time.

### EFFECTS OF A POWER OUTAGE

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- Discard all food that has been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours.
  - When in doubt, throw it out! Inspect all food items and discard if you find it has a foul odor, color, or texture.
  - Throw away any refrigerated medication if the power has been out for longer than 24 hours unless the product label states otherwise. Contact your doctor or pharmacist for additional questions or information regarding your prescription.

### COVERING YOUR BASES

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- Upon returning home, be sure to inspect all electrical equipment and notify your local utility company or electrician of damages or repairs.
  - Conduct a damage assessment of your property. Photograph and document all damages and contact your insurance company for assistance.
  - Wildfires can increase the risk of flooding up to five years after a wildfire has occurred due to the significant change in landscape. Be prepared and consider adding flood insurance to your home's policy.