

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downed Power Lines can be Lethal

Hamilton / St. Catharines (September 7, 2007) – Horizon Utilities Corporation emergency crews have been busy this afternoon responding to calls regarding downed power lines caused by strong gusts of wind or tree limbs falling on the lines. Crews will remain on the job around the clock in order to restore power to affected areas as quickly as possible.

The public are reminded that downed power lines can be lethal. Anyone who notices a downed line should immediately call 911 to report the location.

Horizon Utilities offers the following advice for actions to take when a low or fallen power line is discovered.

- **Report the problem – Call 911**
- **Always assume a downed power line is live.** It is not possible to determine if a downed power line is energized or not. (Energized lines do not necessarily spark or dance.) Even lines that are de-energized can become energized at any time.
- **Stay clear!** A live wire touching the ground can cause electricity to travel through the ground, radiating outwards from the contact point. Stay at least 10 metres away from a downed power line.
- **Don't drive over downed power lines.** Even if not energized, they can become entangled in your vehicle.
- **Secure the area -** Secure the area to keep others away. Keep children inside and be sure dogs are kept on leashes.
- **Do not attempt to remove a tree limb or other object from a power line. Do not use any object to move a power line** including brooms, hockey sticks, boards limbs or plastic materials. Electricity can travel through tree limbs and other non-conducting materials, especially when they are wet. Call 911 to report the problem.

After the Storm

- Be careful not to stand under tree limbs or power lines. Tree limbs can become weakened during a storm but not fall until several hours or even days after the storm.
- When cleaning up after a storm, make absolutely sure that no power lines are near before cutting or trimming damaged trees and removing debris from your property.
- If a power line should fall on your vehicle while you are inside, remain inside your vehicle. Use a cell phone to call for help. Warn others to stay back 10 metres and have them get help from emergency personnel.

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