



ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME



Are Overhead Power Lines Covered with Insulation? NO!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

For emergencies, call
911 and Duquesne Light
at **888-393-7000** or
412-393-7000.

Contact Duquesne Light at
412-393-7100 for power line
assistance or questions.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are doing more projects in and around our homes. Remember, whether you are planting a tree, adding a sprinkler system or digging a foundation for a new workshop, the law requires you to call 811 to have underground utilities located and marked at least three business days before you dig, excluding weekends and legal holidays. You can help prevent outdoor project delays by pre-marking your proposed dig areas in white and notifying 811 with as much lead time as possible, up to 10 days in Pennsylvania.

To learn more about Duquesne Light's response to COVID-19, [click here.](#)

Power Lines Are Not Covered with an Insulating Material

Most overhead power lines are made of highly conductive aluminum with a steel core, or copper—and they are NOT covered with an insulating material. If you look up at a utility pole or tower, you may not be able to identify which lines are communication cables and which are energized wires. So always assume ANY wire on a utility pole or tower is energized and dangerous, and stay away. All downed wires should also be considered energized and dangerous. Stay far away from them as well and call 911 immediately.



Don't Be Fooled by the Coating

Some power lines may appear insulated, but the coating that covers them is meant to protect the line from the elements—it does not protect people from electrical contact. So consider ALL power lines energized and dangerous. Any contact with overhead power lines could cause serious injury—or even death.

Distance Is Your Best Protection

Keep yourself, your tools and ladders, and all equipment *at least* 10 feet away from overhead power lines carrying 50 kV or less, which are typical in residential areas. Higher-voltage power lines require greater working distances. Contact Duquesne Light at 412-393-7100 for power line assistance or questions. If necessary, we will send a representative to confirm voltages and safety clearances.

**For more safety information, visit
duquesnelight.com/outages-safety/electrical-safety.**