

WHAT TO DO: VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT



Know what to do if you are in an accident involving a power line or other electrical equipment.



Accidents can happen any time of the year, but Stearns Electric Association notices an increase in vehicle accidents involving electrical equipment during Minnesota's icy winters. Knowing what to do if you find yourself in an accident involving high voltage electrical equipment could save your life.

Though it may be instinctive to flee as soon as possible, the safest place you can be is, most likely, in your vehicle.

Stay Safe. Stay Inside.

If your vehicle comes into contact with electrical equipment, remain inside and call 911. Only exit if there is an immediate danger, such as fire.



When a vehicle crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down or power lines may fall on your vehicle or on the ground nearby. When this happens, your vehicle and/or the area around it may become charged with electricity.

If you step out of the vehicle in this scenario, your body becomes the path to ground for the electricity and you could be electrocuted.



If you find yourself in a vehicle accident involving a power pole or other electrical equipment, do the following:

- Stay IN your vehicle — do NOT get out
- Warn others to stay away
- Call 911 for help
- Wait until a professional from Stearns Electric, or another electric utility provider, tells you it is safe to leave your vehicle



The ONLY reason to exit a vehicle after an accident involving electrical equipment is if it's on fire. In the rare case of a vehicle fire:

- Jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.
- Once you are safely outside of the vehicle, shuffle at least 100 feet away with your feet together.
- Do not go back to the vehicle to retrieve any items until you are told it is safe to do so by a professional.