



## **Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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### Water and Electricity do not Mix!

Vermont Electric Cooperative encourages its members to practice caution during flooding situations. Take precautions with your home's electrical system by using the following safety advice:

#### Safety Tips

- Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas and beware that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water. Keep in mind that debris can easily ignite if it comes into contact with downed power lines, especially when electrical wires are severed.
- Never touch a downed power line. Call VEC to report it immediately at 1-800-832-2667. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged.
- Be sure all electric and gas services are turned off before entering buildings for the first time.
- If water has risen above the electrical outlets in your home, contact a licensed electrician before turning on your main circuit breaker. Outlets and wiring that have come in contact with water could present a fire and shock hazard.
- Allow all electrical appliances and electronic equipment, once submerged, to dry thoroughly. Have them checked by a qualified repair person before turning them on.
- Look for and replace damaged extension and appliance cords, loose prongs, or plugs.