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# *News Release*

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## **Know How to Survive Auto Accidents Involving Power Lines**

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.



Beauregard Electric wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the utility is on the scene and ensures the lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the accident scene.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, there are tens of thousands of accidents each year in which power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those accidents, the safest place to be is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit the car. Then, they must know how to do so *safely*, jumping free

and clear of the vehicle, landing with feet together and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

“When people are involved in such a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone’s mind,” says BECi. “We’re often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We often forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

*For more information and videos on electrical safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency, and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other entities committed to promoting safe use of electricity.*