



LANDSCAPE & GARDEN

RECOVERY

Caring for Trees: Power Lines

The most common reason for storm power outages is a tree falling onto power and communications lines. The utilities do their best to clear the lines of branches to prevent this, but in strong storms, this is not always enough.

After a storm passes and you first go

outside, it's important to be aware of damaged trees in contact with power lines. Follow these safety protocols when approaching storm-damaged trees that may be in contact with power lines or power lines that have fallen due to tree failure.

- Treat all fallen power lines as live. Just because your power is out doesn't mean the line isn't energized.
- Never attempt to remove branches or trees from utility lines.
- The higher on the pole the line is, the more powerful that line is. You can also look at the ceramic insulating discs. The utilities use bowl-shaped ceramic discs as insulators between the lines and the poles. More discs equals more power.
- Even television cable and telephone lines are capable of hurting you.
- Before approaching a tree that might be in direct contact with utility wires, examine it from more than one direction. Do not approach or touch

See **TREES**, 24



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Kendra Bishop Savell
Adrienne Tucker Agency
 (251) 645-0599, Ext. 104
 savellk1@nationwide.com

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Fill up your gas tank before a storm. You never know how bad the damage will be or when local businesses will re-open.



HURRICANE PREPARATION