

“DANGER”

Safety Tips for *Downed Power Lines, Underground Electric Cabinet, and Electric Meter Boxes*

The Green Cove Springs Electric Department and GCS Police would like to remind our customers of the dangers and safety precautions to observe in the event your electric service has been interrupted due to a downed power line or underground fault. These wires and cabinets can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. The following tips can keep you safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. **Call 911 or GCS Police (904) 297-7300** instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- In the event your system is underground and you believe your transformer or other underground cabinet has been compromised electrically, **DO NOT APPROACH OR TOUCH THE EQUIPMENT**. **Call 911 or GCS Police (904) 297-7300** instead, a GCS Electric Lineman is the only individual who is authorized to work on the equipment.
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE YOUR ELECTRIC METER FOR ANY REASON. INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN KILLED TRYING TO TURN OR TAMPER WITH THEIR METER. THIS IS ALSO ILLEGAL.**

