Size up the scene: Electricity 101
Be extremely careful with electricity.

First responders are typically the first on the scene and when electricity is involved in an emergency, it can create a severe hazard. Take care with these tips:

- Electricity seeks the path of least resistance to the ground. It travels through conductors including: water, the human body and metal objects like ladders, poles and fences.
- Be cautious using water near power lines. If you must use water, use a mist or spray – never a solid stream.
- Your gear may not insulate you against electric shock and a low-voltage electric shock can kill you.
- To stay safe, you must always stay out of electricity’s path.

Learn more
To find out more about first responder safety and order training materials, visit duke-energy.com/publicsafety/firstresponders.

Contact information
If you see downed power lines or another electrical danger, call for help immediately:
Duke Energy Carolinas: 800.769.3766
Duke Energy Indiana: 800.343.3525
Duke Energy Kentucky or Ohio: 800.543.5599
Duke Energy Progress: 866.464.7250
Duke Energy Florida: 800.228.8485

Staying safe while saving others:
Electrical safety for first responders
We value your work and we value your safety. Duke Energy wants you to be safe when responding to emergencies.

Please watch out for the following high-risk areas:

**Overhead Power Lines**
Assume power lines are always energized.

Transmission and distribution lines are powerful transmitters of electricity. Keep all personnel and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, including the service drops that run from utility poles to buildings. Transmission lines (larger lines with higher voltages) require greater distances.

- Always consider placement of any apparatus. Do not stage under or near power lines.
- Use a spotter. No equipment operator working alone can safely judge the distance from the equipment to overhead power lines.
- If your equipment contacts a power line, it should be considered energized:
  - Stay put. Warn others to stay away and have someone call Duke Energy immediately.
  - If you must get off the equipment due to fire or other imminent danger, jump clear, land with your feet together and shuffle away with small steps.

**Home or Business Electrical Systems**
Don’t be part of the circuit.

Electrical equipment on or around structures should be considered live and dangerous. These wires may appear insulated, but their coating is not designed to protect you from electric shock.

- Stay at least 10 feet away from the service drops that run from the utility poles to buildings.
- Have a spotter monitor the placement of ladders near power lines to ensure they remain a safe distance away from service drops and other power lines.
- Do not cut service wires or remove electrical meters. This is extremely dangerous. Instead, turn off power at the main circuit breaker.
- Do not open or enter a manhole or vault until the utility has de-energized the area.

**Downed Power Lines**
Any item touching a downed line may be energized.

If you come across a downed line, contact Duke Energy immediately and never touch a fallen power line.

- Always secure the area.
- Stay away.
- Keep yourself and the public at least 30 feet away from fallen power lines and objects. This includes metal structures that may have become energized.

**Motor Vehicle Accident-Pole Accidents**
Do not attempt to enter or touch vehicles that may be energized.

Incidents involving downed power lines or poles require extra caution when you are responding. Your safety and the safety of the victim are extremely important.

- Instruct victims to drive the vehicle away from the line if they can do so safely.
- If the vehicle cannot be safely moved, instruct them to stay put until Duke Energy personnel give the all clear.
- If occupants are in imminent danger (fire or other hazards), instruct them to jump clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time, and shuffle away.
- If victims are injured, disabled or otherwise unable to safely exit the vehicle, your incident commander will tell you how to proceed.

**Trees and Vegetation**
Emergencies can sometimes involve trees or occur close to trees and it is important to understand the risks. Trees can become energized when they are in contact with electrical equipment and power lines.

- Don’t touch a tree if it is touching or has fallen on a power line because it could be energized.
- Don’t come in contact with a tree that is burning and close to power lines.
- Be extra cautious during wildfires or brush burning hazards.
- Stay away from a MVA involving a tree and/or power line. Wait for Duke Energy personnel to assess the situation.

*These are depictions and appearance may differ based on jurisdiction.*