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Watch for Hidden Hazards After A Storm

Storms can create very dangerous situations, even after they have passed. It can be very dangerous for the electric line crew that works to get power turned back on. How long it takes to get power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas. It is very important to take safety precautions after a storm and be on the lookout for any hidden hazards!

Here are a few safety precautions that you can take after a storm to reduce the risk of injury:

- 1) Stay clear of any downed power lines or sparking wires.
- 2) Make sure electricity and gas are turned off before entering storm-damaged buildings.
- 3) If you are inspecting your home in the dark, use a flashlight instead of a candle or open flame to avoid the risk of fire.
- 4) Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are underwater.
- 5) Do not turn off power if you must stand in water to do so. Call the Hannibal Board of Public Works to turn power off at the meter.
- 6) If you see frayed wiring or sparks or if there is an odor of something burning, shut off the electrical system at the main circuit breaker (if you know how and can do so safely).
- 7) Do not venture out on roads after a storm! If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, DO NOT leave the car. Wait for the HBPW Linemen to de-energize the line before exiting the car.

