



Reporter Safety Tips

Reporters and camera operators should be vigilant and careful at all times when working around electricity and natural gas. Winter storms can cause high winds, heavy rains, low-elevation snow and landslides. These conditions can cause damage to PG&E facilities and pose serious safety hazards, including broken poles, downed power lines and ruptured natural gas lines. Here are some safety tips you should follow when covering storm stories from the field:

- Always treat downed power lines as if they are energized and extremely dangerous. Keep yourself and others far away from them. Downed power lines energize the surrounding ground posing an electric shock risk.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Energized power lines may be hidden in fallen trees, flooded areas and snow.
- Downed power lines may also be touching and energizing cars, trees, walls, fences and other metallic or wet objects. Be careful not to lean on or touch objects that could be energized.
- The media should report downed power lines by calling 911 immediately and then notifying PG&E at 1-800-743-5002.
- Also be mindful of damaged, low-hanging power lines while driving or walking in a storm-damaged area.
- Always park and stay far away from fallen power lines or any other damaged electric utility equipment.
- Look up and make sure that electronic news gathering vehicles aren't parked under or near a power line. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between your mast and the power line at all times.
- If a power line falls on top of your vehicle, stay inside if it's safe to do so. If you must leave, make sure you jump clear of the vehicle being very careful not to touch both the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Land with your feet close together and shuffle or hop until you are at least 30 feet away.
- Dress appropriately. Use hard hats and brightly-colored vests or jackets so drivers and workers on the scene can easily spot you. Wear long sleeves, pants and appropriate footwear, preferably work boots. Be aware of moving vehicles; drivers may not see you.
- Remembering to put safety first in everything you do will bring you and your story home each day. Treat safety as priority number one and take nothing for granted when working in a storm damaged area.