



Treat Every Downed Line as Energized

One of the greatest hazards during storm restoration is downed conductors. Every downed wire must be treated as energized until it has been properly isolated, tested, grounded, and confirmed safe. Broken neutrals, backfeed from generators, and switching errors can energize conductors unexpectedly. Establish work zones to keep the public away, use appropriate barriers when possible, and never move or handle conductors until proper clearance has been obtained. Always verify the source has been isolated and follow your utility's switching and grounding procedures.

Takeaway: Assume every conductor is energized until you have personally verified otherwise.