

***United Neighbors -
to encourage and facilitate neighbors working together and helping each other on a daily and
emergency basis***

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UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF STEP POTENTIAL COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE – PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL YOU KNOW

Please make time to read this, watch the 3 videos and show the second video to all teens.

Electricity from an energized wire IS STILL ACTIVE once it has entered the ground. It radiates out from the touch point in concentric circles of diminished energy potential like the wave rings around the contact point of the stone you threw into a quiet pond. If you touch spots that have different energy potential, you can become energized/a conductor of that electricity/electrocuted. This is the concept of Step Potential.

Example: If you are in a car that has a power line fall on it (or has a light pole on it, because light poles can have from 120-2400 volts) -

- Stay inside.
- You can safely use your cell phone to call for help or touch the metal inside the car.
- Tell others to stay away – **AT LEAST 30 FEET AWAY** – and not touch the vehicle.
- “Dead” power lines can re-energize at any time. Communication lines can have voltage. Consider all down lines “live”.
- If the car catches on fire and you must exit, set yourself on the step of the car, **LET COMPLETELY GO OF THE CAR** and jump **WITH YOUR FEET TOGETHER AND NO OTHER PART OF YOU ALSO TOUCHING THE GROUND**, i.e. only one contact point. If you cannot get out of the car safely in this way, **DO NOT GET OUT OF THE CAR!**
- Take **SMALL** shuffle steps to move away from the car keeping both feet on the ground at all times. You want to maintain ground contact with only one level of energy potential at a time. The video shows a person hopping away, which is fine if you can hop.

3 VIDEOS ON LIVE WIRE SAFETY: WATCHING THEM MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Here are 3 compelling videos illustrating important points of live wire safety.

Here is the shortened SCE video – Part of the one shown at the CERT and MESAC presentation
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKZMYjZ7oMc>

These high school students survived an auto accident with downed power lines because they paid attention to a demonstration

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRSQkooslQM>

This is a clear demonstration of how to get out of your car. If you think you are far enough away (at least 30 ft.), you can slowly spread your feet apart. If they begin to tingle, you must continue to hop or shuffle further away.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hF5jHI48-U>

WITH YOUR DETAILED DESCRIPTION, EDISON CAN RESPOND MORE QUICKLY, EVEN REMOTELY, TO AN EMERGENCY

The key is to reach Edison quickly in an emergency, so they can turn off the power to the affected area. When you call 911, if you have exact information, you can speed up the response. As you go by a “pad mount” or underground vault ventilator, look for the “structure number” so you can quickly find it in an emergency.

All power poles have a unique “structure number” about 6 to 8 feet above the ground. Look for a vertical metal strip with numbers and perhaps letters on it. If you call 911 about a problem, tell them the structure number and the exact street address or cross streets. If the pole is behind a house and you know the house number, report that. If it is not safe to be close to the pole with a problem, find the structure number of the nearest pole that is safe to approach, then say how far that pole is away (3 poles east, for example) from the pole with a problem. If you can be detailed enough in your description, Edison may be able to turn off the power remotely.

So. Calif. Edison Safety Environmental Specialist Wayne Williams gave the presentation that included the written information above. He is not paid to do these free presentations. He does them to try to save lives. Contact So. Calif. Edison for speakers to do these safety presentations.

UNITED NEIGHBORS

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Diane Hill: (714) 546-4252 Voice (714) 540-1288 FAX

unitedneighbors@cmprepared.com; [United Neighbors Website](#)