

- * If you are using umbrellas, make sure that the handles are insulated; umbrella handles made of metal may catch lightning.
- * When returning to flooded houses, make sure that electrical junction boxes and outlets submerged in flood are dry and free of dirt that may cause short circuit before switching back on your electricity.

Safety Tips When You Are Inside Your House

During the occurrence of persistent lightning:

- * Lightning may cause power surges; for safety, turn off your appliances or unplug with extra care. Remember that lightning current may also flow through the electrical cords.
- * Use your cell phones for more important communications. Lightning can travel through the corded phones.
- * Do not fix any antenna, be it indoor or outdoor.
- * If your plumbing is made of steel, avoid using sinks, showers, tubs and toilets. Lightning may also pass through your plumbing, especially if some portions are exposed outside.
- * Never touch bare electrical wires or any metal rods, those materials likely catch lightning.
- * Stay away from broken window panes.

During power outages:

- * Keep the doors of your refrigerators and freezers closed to prolong the freshness of food.
- * Pack your frozen foods into coolers.
- * Use your rechargeable gadgets and equipment sparingly.

Image Link: <https://ph.images.search.yahoo.com/>

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

RAINY SEASON SAFETY TIPS



**Consumer Welfare and
Promotion Office**



While our Distribution Utilities and Electric Cooperatives are continuously improving their respective systems to be able to withstand heavy rains or typhoons as much as possible, disturbance and interruptions in the delivery of electricity services are very likely to happen during rainy season.

Lightning, uprooted trees or any tall vegetation, or falling branches caused by typhoons or high velocity gusty winds brought by Southwest Monsoon or “Habagat” may cause short circuit in the power lines or interruptions in the flow of electricity. Heavy rains may loosen soils and may cause the poles to fall.

This scenario occurs yearly and inevitable, and the best thing to do is to mitigate its impact to our lives. Along with your preparations regarding other aspects of disaster preparedness recommended by other related agencies, the following are our suggested measures in relation to electric power.

Always be ready

- * Always watch or listen to weather reports, forecasts and updates on televisions, radios, internet or any other means of weather broadcast.
- * Make sure that your rechargeable devices especially the rechargeable flashlights, transistor radios, battery banks for cell phones, and life supports, if necessary, are always fully charged.
- * If strong typhoon is coming, stock back-up batteries for your battery-operated pieces of equipment.
- * Wick lamps and candles are fire hazards but may be useful when all other electricity operated pieces of equipment are already out of service.
- * You may stock oil or kerosene for wick lamps, candles and matches provided they are kept in safe places in your homes, away from children’s reach, and use only as last resort.
- * In flood prone areas, map the safe way out of your place to flood-free locations.
- * If heavy rains are expected, place your electronic appliances in higher places of your house.

During floods

- * Do not underestimate the force of water.
- * Always remember that electricity runs through the water in all directions.
- * Always remember that electricity is very dangerous.
- * If the floodwater is about to reach the electrical outlets in your house, turn off the main switch immediately.
- * If the flood will already reach the main switches in your area, inform your Distribution Utility immediately.
- * Report immediately to your Distribution Utility any fallen power lines or poles, or damaged or broken distribution lines.
- * Make sure that there is no live power lines submerged in water in your area before you dip into the flood.
- * Ensure that you are safely insulated before touching anybody who is in direct contact with the submerged power lines. You could become the next victim.
- * If the flood becomes untenable, use your prepared map as you escape to flood safe place; again, make sure that there are no live power lines submerged nearby before leaving your house.
- * During night time, do not use your wick lamps or candles as long as your flashlights are still working. Remember that kerosene floats on water, therefore, accidental spill of kerosene may endanger your other belongings or even lives. Use wick lamps with extra care.