

National Safety Month brings summer risks

These tips from CVPS are part of a continuing series to educate Vermonters about electrical safety and hazards.

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It's June, National Safety Month, which can also mean summer thunderstorms and the potential for heavy rain and flooding – which can bring electrical hazards.

Even minor flooding can create a serious risk of electrocution. To protect your family, discuss these tips with everyone in your household or business, including your children.

Water and electricity do not mix. If you get water in the basement or building, shut off power to all appliances **IF YOU CAN DO SO SAFELY.**

Never attempt to turn off your power, open circuit breakers, remove fuses or operate switches while standing in water. Don't take any of these actions until the structure is emptied of water. If your electric service panel is affected by water, have a qualified, licensed

electrician check it out as soon as possible. Leave it to a professional.

Don't rely on fishing waders, rubber boots or household rubber gloves as insulation. They do not provide sufficient insulation to protect you from electric shock. If any appliances or electrical equipment get wet, be sure they are dry and have an electrician inspect them before using them again.

Vermont law requires businesses and multi-unit apartment buildings to be inspected by a state inspector before a utility can re-energize after a flood or fire. CVPS policy requires single-family residential homes to be inspected by a licensed electrician before power can be restored.

For more safety tips, visit www.cvps.com/safety, and be sure to check out our newsletter, *Keeping Current*, which comes with your bill each month, for more from CVPS.

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