

Homeowners may be responsible to repair some of storm's damage

Some of the remaining Halton Hills Hydro customers who are still without power suffered damage to the equipment that connects their home to the power lines.

These repairs must be completed by a licensed electrician hired by the homeowner.

Customers who have had damage to their service stack and meter base can call Halton Hills Hydro Customer Care Centre at 519-853-3701 for a more detailed explanation or check the following websites: www.haltonhillshydro.com or www.esasafe.com.

Halton Hills Hydro reported Sunday, "we have some crews doing nothing but restoring power to individual services. We have several hundred of these services to get to."

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, most home insurance policies would cover the cost to repair a home's electrical mast.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) has a number of safety tips.

• Step 1: Check for damage to the electrical service coming into your home-wires are down, sagging, touching trees or your home, or pulled away from your home or the hydro wires. Do not touch! Even if you think the power is off.

Contact a licensed electrical contractor to make repairs. <http://applications.dmtispatial.com/esa/>

• Step 2: Check for damage to electrical connection to your house (stand pipes and masts). These are the pipes typically attached to the side of a house, connecting incoming hydro wires to your meter. If the pipe/mast is pulled away from your home or damaged in any way, contact a licensed electrical contractor to arrange repairs.

• Step 3: Look for damage inside your home caused by flooding. Burst pipes, burst or backed-up watermains, and other sources may have caused flooding in your home.

• Step 4: Be careful when clearing up snow, ice and debris. Do not attempt to clear tree limbs that are leaning on or caught in powerlines; report them to your local utility.

• Step 5: Arranging for repairs, permits and inspection. Contact a licensed electrical contractor to get an assessment of the damage and extent of the required repairs and to arrange for a ESA permit and electrical inspection. Once repairs are complete, the ESA will inspect in a timely manner, and advise your electrical utility that your property is ready for connection of power.



Some homeowners may be on the hook financially for damage done by the ice storm to their home's electrical systems.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom



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