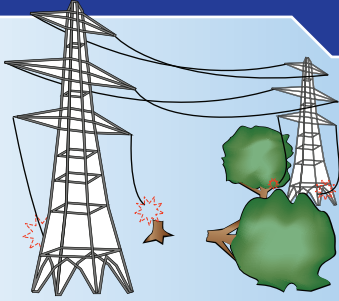


# HOW POWER OUTAGES OCCUR

1



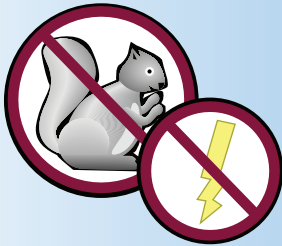
**STORMS** - High winds or heavy snow and ice may knock trees or limbs into transmission or distribution lines and interrupt power.

2



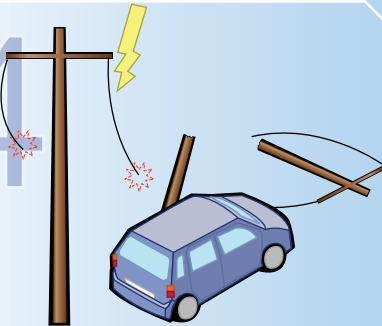
**CONSTRUCTION MISHAPS** - Power interruptions can occur when a construction-equipment operator accidentally digs into an underground cable.

3



**SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT DAMAGE** - Lightning may strike equipment in a power distribution substation. Animals may also short-circuit substation equipment.

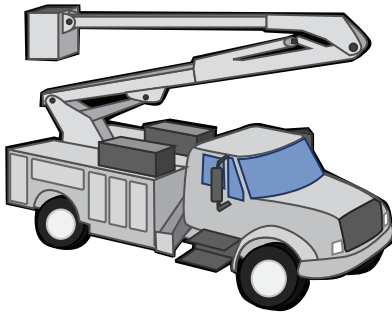
4



**DOWNED UTILITY POLES** - Strong winds may snap utility poles, bringing down energized wires. Cars and lightning may also strike and down utility poles.

**NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED WIRE OR ANYTHING NEAR IT.**

## REPAIRING THE DAMAGE



When the electric system senses a problem, circuit breakers or other protective equipment shut off the flow of power, minimizing safety hazards and causing customer power losses.

Before repairs can begin, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) crews first need to assess the extent of the damage. Power must be shut off at repair locations to ensure crew and public safety.

When storms cause widespread power outages, PSE crews focus first on restoring power to high-voltage transmission lines that provide power to substations that serve large numbers of customers in a broad geographic area.

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