



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS ADVISORY

Wind and Flooding Advisory

10-11 December 2023

****Update as of 2:00PM, Sunday 10 December 2023****

According to the Municipal Briefing held by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (CT DEMHS), the weather event that Kent is experiencing is not estimated to be as severe here in the Litchfield Hills as the eastern half of Connecticut. Still, we can expect rains up to 3.5 inches to fall overnight and wind gusts to reach 30-45 MPH in the higher elevations, so there is still the threat of some flooding and down trees in our area. Eversource crews are standing by throughout the area to respond to any outages and if you are affected by an outage, use the Eversource website: <https://www.eversource.com/cg/customer/reportoutage> to report or check on an outage.

Kent's Emergency Management Team is monitoring the situation and is issuing updates via social media and our Public Works department is also on watch to support where needed.

If you encounter a downed power line while walking...

- DON'T touch the powerline with your body or any object. Always assume the line is "energized," meaning it can electrocute you. Touching a powerline can easily injure or kill you if an electrical current is running through it. You can't tell if a line is energized or not just by looking at it, so always err on the side of caution.
- DO keep your distance to avoid electrocution through the ground. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), the ground around power lines may be energized up to 35 feet away.
- DON'T touch a person, animal, or object that has touched the power line. Though it may be heartwrenching to leave them there, you could also be electrocuted by touching them or walking within the energized area. Family members **trying to help each other** have died this way. Instead, protect yourself and others, and call 911.
- DO call 911. You should report downed powerlines immediately to emergency services.
- DO attempt to keep others away. While maintaining a safe distance yourself, warn anyone you see who might unwittingly enter the energized area.
- DO shuffle away from a downed power line if you get too close to it. You can avoid a strong electric shock by taking small steps and keeping your feet together and in contact with the ground at all times.

If a downed power line touches your car while you're inside...

- DON'T get out of your car. The ground surrounding your vehicle might be energized. You shouldn't leave your car until the authorities tell you it's

safe to do so.

- DO call 911 on your cell phone to tell emergency services your situation. If you can't call 911, honk your horn or roll down your window and call for help.
- DO warn anyone who comes to help not to come close. Ask them to call 911 for you.

If your car catches on fire:

- DO take off loose clothing items.
- DO jump clear of your vehicle so that no part of you will be touching both your car and the ground at the same time.
- DO shuffle away from your car, taking small steps and keeping both feet on the ground at all times.

Be Safe and Be Vigilant!

Regards,
Marty Lindenmayer
Kent First Selectman

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