

Best Practices: Removing Heaters Submerged Under Water

The following are best practices recommended by our industry partners and members

1. The electrical contractor must be called to site.
2. All mandatory safety documentation & assessments must be completed prior to any work being initiated. Energized heaters underwater are considered a “near miss”. Due to the seriousness and danger involved, the area should be supervised, restricted and not left unattended until the power is disconnected by the electrician. Workers should be cautioned not to enter flooded areas with energized wiring. This is to prevent anyone from going into the basement and getting electrocuted.
3. Any certified Journeyman electrician is permitted to pull the exterior Hydro meter to disconnect power from an unsafe condition.
4. Once the meter is pulled and power has been disconnected, Manitoba Hydro must be notified immediately of the event at 204-480-5900.
5. The submerged heaters must be re-certified by the manufacturer or discarded - CEC code rule 2021, 2-032(3)
6. Under no circumstances is a Journeyman electrician allowed to reinstall a Hydro meter after it has been removed.
7. A re-inspection permit must be pulled.
8. A re-inspection needs to be scheduled; If the service has been disconnected due to water entering a building, an electrical inspection will be required, prior to re-energizing the service. Customers within Winnipeg should contact the City of Winnipeg Electrical Inspection Department at 204-986-5300 and Rural customers should contact Manitoba Hydro at 204-480-5900, for residential inspections.
9. Workers and Inspectors should not go into a basement that has water. The water must be removed and a safe work environment should be re-established.
10. After re-inspection, the inspector will call Manitoba Hydro for reconnection.