

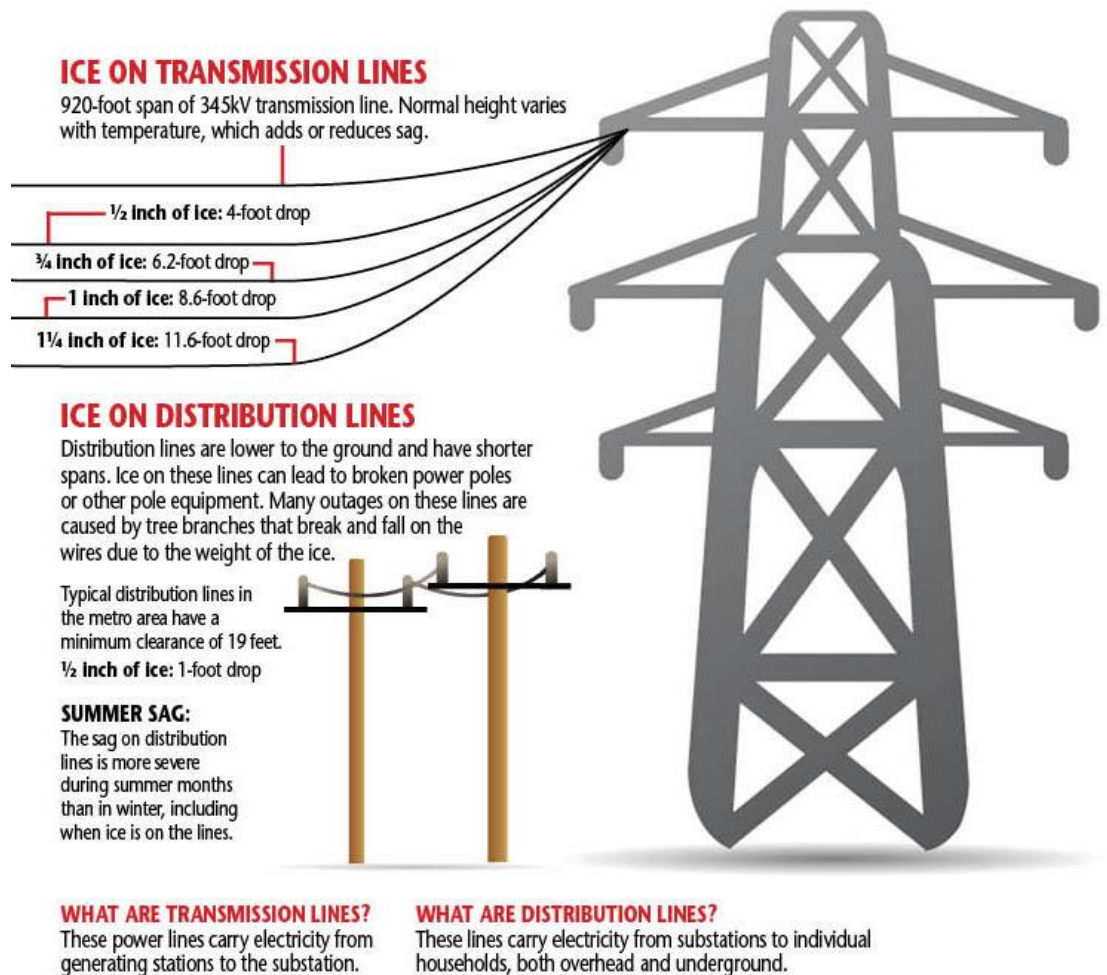
Ice has weighty effect on power lines

Adapted from the Omaha Public Power District's informational website, The Wire. Original article posted on December 31, 2018. Author: Laura King-Homan

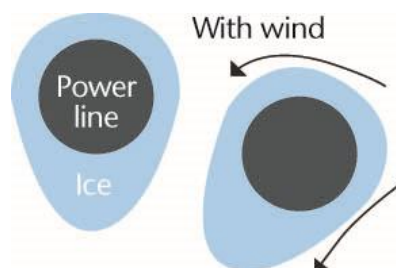
Heavy snow is not the only issue affecting power lines in the winter. Ice and wind can be just as destructive to power lines, leading to power outages.

Each drop of freezing rain adds weight to power lines and their structures. It also adds more pressure and strain.

The infographic to the right, explains the stress ice places on power lines and infrastructure.



The formation of excess ice on the lines can also create another dangerous condition: When ice is accumulating on the power lines it forms a teardrop shape that, combined with wind, can cause the wires to act like an aerodynamic airplane wing. This phenomenon is known as “galloping” which can cause the wires to touch. This in turn will cause a fault or power outage.



To reduce galloping and its dangers, you may see twisted wire or metal pieces attached to certain power lines. This video shows you how that works.