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# Be Safe – Not Sorry

*Safety Tips for Our Customers*

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**BE SAFE – NOT SORRY  
SAFETY TIPS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS**

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**If you have questions on being safe around electricity, please contact:**

Lincoln County Power District No. 1

(888) 649-3814

(775) 962-5122



## BE SAFE – NOT SORRY

Electricity is such an important part of our day-to-day living that it is almost impossible to imagine a world without electrical power. It enhances and eases our lives. But can also hurt us through incorrect or careless use. Knowing how electricity works, travels and is used helps us to understand it as a powerful force that, without serious caution can be deadly.

### Know Electricity's Properties

Although electricity is invisible, odorless and has no shape or form, the earth's atmosphere is charged with it. You'll see proof of its presence in a lightning storm. Though the electricity we use in our daily lives is manmade, it is a natural phenomenon with absolute characteristics. The main points to remember about electricity in order to safe are:

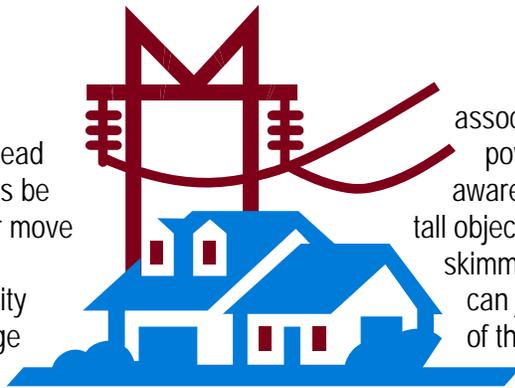
- ▶ Electricity always seeks a path to ground.
- ▶ Electricity travels at the speed of light.
- ▶ Electricity flows through materials known as conductors.
- ▶ Electricity can not easily flow through materials know as insulators.

Conductors are such things as metal, water, wet objects, trees, and people (since we are 70% water). Insulators include items made of plastic, glass, rubber, or porcelain.

Electrical accidents happen anywhere and anytime a conductor, such as a person, interrupts the flow of current by providing it with a path to ground. Use common sense and extra caution around electricity to keep safe. Always remember, electricity will pass through your body to the ground. Don't give it the chance to do so. Here are some ideas to be safe, not sorry.

### Look Up

Many fatal accidents to contact with overhead not insulated. Always be lines and never lift or move satellite dishes, pool power lines. Electricity The higher the voltage jump through the the arc occurs, you will become part of the path to ground. Never get closer than 16 feet to an overhead power line without first contacting us.



associated with electricity occur by coming in power lines. Most overhead power lines are aware of your proximity to overhead power tall objects such as rain gutters, TV antennas, skimmers, irrigation pipes, or ladders around can jump through the air to these objects. of the power line, the farther the electricity can air. If you are touching the object when

### Call Before You Dig

Digging into underground power lines can be just as dangerous as contacting an overhead line. Although underground lines are insulated, they are not designed to resist damage from picks, shovels and tractors. It is critical that you take the time to find out





if underground power cables are on your property before you dig; and it's the law in Nevada. You can call 811 or 1-800-227-2600 to have lines located before you start digging.

## Outside Your House

To avoid accidents outside your house, look out for potentially dangerous situations. Here are some things to keep in mind outside of your home.

- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines or with a power line running through them.
- ▶ Keep ladders away from power lines.
- ▶ Never let your children play on pad mound transformer cabinets.
- ▶ Don't ever try to open a transformer or any electric utility cabinet.
- ▶ Electric utility cabinets should not be buried in landscape material or surrounded by shrubbery because these may cause them to overheat. If they fail, it will slow our ability to restore your service if we have to dig out the cabinet or cut through shrubbery.
- ▶ Never climb utility poles or play on fences around substations. Never go in a substation unless on a guided tour with qualified utility personnel.
- ▶ Use only lights, fixtures and extension cords intended for outdoor use. If they are rated for outdoor use, it will indicate it on the label.
- ▶ Never stand in or near water when using an outdoor power tool.



- ▶ Plug outdoor power tools only into outlets that have ground fault circuit interrupter devices (GFCIs). A GFCI will instantly disconnect power to an outlet if a short circuit or grounding event occurs. Current building codes require all outside electrical outlets to be GFCI protected. If you live in an older home and are not sure if your outside outlets are GFCI protected, call us for an inspection.
- ▶ Never fly kites near power lines. Choose an open space where there are no power lines or cars. If your kite gets caught in a power line, do not touch the kite or string. Call us to get the kite off the line.
- ▶ Never release a metallic balloon near a power line or substation. If they come in contact with a power line or substation they can cause a power outage.

## Tree Trimming

Tree trimmers risk severe injury when working too close to overhead power lines. A tree or cut branch can fall into a line, creating an electrical path to ground through the tree trimmer and tree. Below are some points to remember when trimming trees.

- ▶ Always be aware of your proximity to power lines. Stay away as far as possible. Never get closer than 16 feet to an overhead power line without first contacting us.

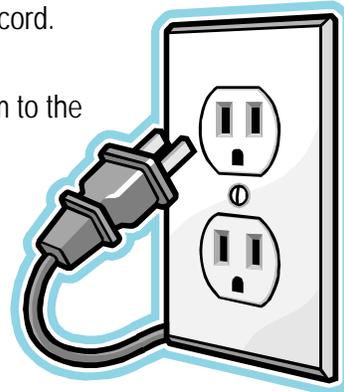


- ▶ Trees and branches can conduct electricity. If they touch a power line, they will provide a path to ground.
- ▶ Even wood or fiberglass handled tree pruners or ladders will conduct electricity if they are wet or dirty.
- ▶ If any trees on your property are growing into power lines or if you need assistance, please contact us before you start trimming.

## Inside Your Home

Many people falsely assume they are safe inside their home from fatal electrocution. They wrongly believe that they might get shocked, but the circuit breaker in their house will trip before serious injury were to occur. They couldn't be more wrong. Most common household fuses or circuit breakers will not trip until current flow reaches 15 to 20 amps. Current flow of just 20 milliamps can be fatal. A milliamp is 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of an amp. In addition, electrical short circuits inside the home are often the cause of household fires. Here are some ways you can keep safe from electricity inside your home.

- ▶ Keep extension cords accessible. Do not run cords under carpets or furniture, through doorways, around pipes, around heaters or near sharp metal objects.
- ▶ Keep electrical cords and wires away from heat and water.
- ▶ Periodically check electrical cords for damage. Throw away frayed or damaged cords. Don't try to repair them. Electrical cords are cheap. The consequence of electrocution or fire from an improper repair can be very high.
- ▶ Don't pull on electric cords to unplug them. Pull the plug, not the cord.
- ▶ Don't overload outlets with too many plugs.
- ▶ Check appliance and extension cords for heat. If the cord is warm to the touch, unplug and discontinue use immediately.
- ▶ Make sure all major electrical tools and appliances are properly grounded with a three-prong plug. Do not cut off the third prong. It serves as the safety ground and prevents shocks.
- ▶ Use electrical socket covers on unused outlets to protect your children, grandchildren and pets.
- ▶ If you are touching water, never touch electrical devices such as light switches, hair dryers, curling irons, mixers, or toasters. Never use radios or hairdryers around baths, showers and hot tubes.
- ▶ Don't put your fingers in a light bulb socket.
- ▶ Never put metal silverware into plugged in toasters.
- ▶ Disconnect appliances before cleaning them.



- ▶ Check all of your light fixtures to be sure that the wattage of the light bulb being used does not exceed the wattage limit of the fixture. If a light fixture is rated for 60 watt bulbs, don't use 100 watt bulbs.
- ▶ Never place floor lamps where they could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible material if they are bumped or knocked over. This is especially important with halogen type lamps that operate at very hot temperatures.



## Storms and Downed Power Lines

With our extensive network of overhead power lines, sometimes bring down power lines. When or a fence, those items and the ground energized. When this happens, stop, move that could prove to be fatal. travel through any conductor, tips in mind if you ever come across



lines in Lincoln County, storms do the power line touches a tree around them can become think and don't make a Remember, electricity will including you. Keep these a downed power line.

- ▶ Never touch or go near a do not touch anything on Always assume a downed surrounding it are energized and
- ▶ If you see a downed line, tell others or call us at 1-888-649-3814.
- ▶ Do not touch or go near a person in contact with a downed power line. Call 911. As much as you would like to help, touching them may cause you to be electrocuted as well.
- ▶ If a power line falls across your car while you are inside, stay put until help arrives. If you attempt to leave your vehicle, you may be electrocuted. If the car is on fire and you must exit, jump as far away as possible, with both feet together. Take care never to be in contact with the car and the ground at the same time. Once you are on the ground with both feet, hop with both feet together for at least 20 feet away from the site.

fallen power line, and which the wire is resting, power line and the ground dangerous.

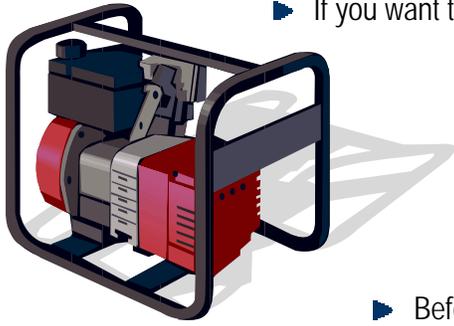
to stay away and immediately call 911

## Using Your Generator Safely

Our electrical system is served by a long, radial (meaning there is only one line) transmission line that brings power into our service area. As a result, our electric system does experience power outages from time to time, especially during storms. Because of the rural nature of our system, some of our customers have purchased generators to provide power during electrical outages. Having a generator and using it during when service from us is interrupted is perfectly acceptable, provided it is done in a safe manner for both you and us. Here are some points to keep you and our employees safe.

- ▶ If a generator is to be connected to your home, it can only be done through an approved transfer switch to prevent backfeed into our power lines. The transfer switch transfers power from the utility power lines to the power coming from your generator during a power outage. Without it, unexpected backfeed from your generator can endanger our utility personnel and your neighbors. As a homeowner, you would be liable for this dangerous situation. We have created standards which are available to our customers that specify the correct way to connect a generator to your home or business electric panel. Please contact us for a copy of these standards.
- ▶ Never plug a portable electric generator into a regular household outlet.





- ▶ If you want to use your generator during an outage and don't have it tied into your electric panel through an approved transfer switch, you must connect individual appliances directly to the receptacle outlet of the generator. Use the cord attached to the appliance, or extended the reach of these cords with the appropriate outdoor-rated power cord having a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.
- ▶ Before using a generator during an outage, always consult the operating instructions for your generator. These instructions will provide important information to keep you safe, such as never operating a generator indoors.