

Safety First



Look Up and Live

As the summer wears on, the risk of hitting overhead power lines should remain a concern for everyone. Common chores or activities can put people's lives at risk without them knowing any harm was done.

A good standard to follow to keep you and your family members safe is to never allow any object or person within 10 feet of a power line. Here are some situations to avoid and some tips to prevent devastating accidents from happening:

- Never allow children to fly kites near power lines. Never use metal or wire in kites and do not fly a kite in stormy weather. Also watch out for toys like model airplanes and water guns. If water is shot near and hits a power line, electricity can travel through the water stream.
- Never build tree houses or forts near power lines and never let children climb trees near power lines.
- Do not plant trees near power lines and make sure they cannot grow near lines. Also, never attempt to trim trees that are near high voltage lines. Leave it to a professional.
- Watch out for tall farm equipment that may come in contact with power lines while moving, like grain augers, irrigation pipes and tilt-bed trucks.
- Construction activity and equipment may become potential electrical hazards. Be especially careful with forklifts, scaffoldings, dump trucks or other equipment that may come in contact with power lines.
- Home repair and cleaning can be dangerous. Be on the lookout for lines when using a ladder to clean gutters or when working on the roof to do repairs or install satellite dishes or antennas.
- Outdoor recreation equipment can often get caught up in power lines. Watch out for sailboat masts, fishing poles, parachutes or hang gliders.