

# **MEMBER LINES**




**SAFETY  
MATTERS**

***Safety is a matter of life...  
your life and the lives of  
those you care for.***

And, safety is caring... caring enough to watch for hazards, to operate machinery and appliances properly and carefully, and to make sure others do too.

Your electric cooperative cares about you and your safety. We want you to use the electricity we deliver to live better. We do everything we can do to make sure it's safe before it gets to your home, including adhering to strict state and national electric codes.



# WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE

- **Water and electricity don't mix**, particularly with a human being between them. Keep appliances away from sinks and tubs.
- Don't use **electric appliances** when you or they are wet.
- Make sure **your home's electric system** is up to the energy lifestyle you lead. Have your wiring checked periodically by a qualified person to make sure the entire system is adequate and safe. Pay attention to any warning signals like dimming lights, shrinking TV pictures, or sparking outlets.
- Use the **proper size fuse** at all times. Never replace a 15-amp fuse (usually the maximum safe fuse size for household circuits) with a 30-amp fuse. You're inviting a fire if you do.
- Use **three-prong plugs, double-insulated tools and appliances, and ground fault interrupter circuits**--they'll help keep you safe.
- Use the **proper size extension cord** for the appliance or tool, and don't overload a circuit by using adapters to plug in more appliances than the outlet was designed for--avoid the risk of fire.

• **Always unplug appliances** when they're not being used--if they fall in water or are accidentally turned on, they won't hurt you.

• **Keep cords out from under rugs**, and don't coil or wrap them around anything tightly--more fire hazards.

## DOWNED POWER LINES

### *DOWNED POWER LINES*

If an overhead power line is knocked down by accident or weather, take two words of advice--**STAY AWAY. KEEP EVERYONE AWAY, CALL THE COOPERATIVE, AND DON'T TRY TO MOVE IT.**

Life is tough enough without ignoring safety. Every year, carelessness with electricity costs thousands of dollars of damage, injures scores of people, and takes dozens of lives.

Your cooperative cares. We want you to live better with electric energy. Take care and be safe. We'll be glad you did--and so will you.



**Please use this information to keep  
electricity a safe and sound energy source.  
After all, it's a matter of your life.**

# WHY ARE YOU SHOCKED



Electricity is a stream of atomic particles that is constantly searching for an easy path to the ground...as lightening does.

Some paths are provided for it...ground wires and lightning rods, for instance.

Other paths are provided by careless people, and those paths are their bodies.

It takes only a fraction of the current needed to light a bulb to kill a person.

So, think of your electric energy as a controlled form of lightning, and treat it with respect.

## WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE

- **Look up**--locate all **overhead power lines**, and stay away from them...at least 10 feet away with ladders, antennas, poles, etc.
- **Look down**--some **electric lines are buried** in the ground...know where they are; if you don't know, don't dig--call your co-op first.
- **Antenna installation** is a major cause of accidental electrocution.

when you're installing one for TV, CB radio, or whatever, keep well away from overhead lines...if the antenna falls or is blown into a line, you'll never watch TV again if you're touching it.

- **Kids flying kites or model airplanes** need supervision to make sure they fly them away from lines...make sure they have fun safely.

- If you use an **electric lawn mower**, only mow dry grass, and use only a well-insulated and grounded (three prong) extension cord.

- More and more people are **sailing** these days, and their boats nearly all have aluminum masts. A thirty-foot aluminum mast is an excellent conductor of electricity --should it come into contact with an overhead power line. Plan ahead and watch carefully for wires--don't turn a weekend of fun into a tragedy.

- **Irrigation pipe** is a special hazard. Be aware that when you raise it overhead, you may be raising a lightning rod--with you as the final connection to the ground. Watch for power lines when you handle pipe.

- **Combines, pickers, balers, front-end loaders, stackers, grain augers, etc.** can also come into contact with overhead lines when raised. Be sure they'll clear any lines in their path--if you're not sure, take a different route.

- **Trees** can also be lightning rods--they're full of water, which is an excellent conductor. Be very careful that power lines do not run through trees the kids climb in, or which you are about to trim.