



For Immediate Release
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Electrical accidents account for 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries each year. While electricity typically transmits without incident, there are times when the electrical path becomes disrupted. When this happens, the current can flow through anything or anyone in its path, causing electrical shock, internal and external burns, and other serious injuries, including electrocution.

“Electricity is referred to as the silent killer since it is often undetectable, that is, it typically cannot be seen, heard or smelled,” says Willy Anderson, CCPPD Safety Director. “While you might notice *some* electrical hazards — electrical outlets that are discolored and warm to the touch or symptoms of other electrical wiring issues, for example — many others are invisible and imperceptible,” he warns. “Always respect electricity and the potential danger that comes with its distribution and use; in fact, always err on the side of caution concerning electrical sources.”

Anderson says while there are precautions you can take both inside and outside your home when it comes to potential electrical dangers, many people are less familiar with (or pay less attention to) potential electrical hazards in the great outdoors.

“When outside, always be aware of overhead power line locations and never come within 10 feet of a line — for example, while trimming trees or carrying a long object such as an extension ladder, pool skimming pole or any other far-reaching or extendable tool,” he advises. “In addition, respect underground utility lines by calling Nebraska 8-1-1 or their toll-free number: 800-331-5666 at least a few days prior to starting a digging project,” he says, adding that the service is free.

A power line does not have to be sparking or arcing (giving off a flame) or buzzing or hissing to be live. In other words, it can look harmless and lifeless and still be energized. “If you see an overhead power line that is sagging or down, always assume it is live (energized), and NEVER go near one,” warns Anderson. Please keep these following reminders concerning electricity on your mind:

Power line safety

- Always assume a power line is energized and deadly.
- A power line does not have to be arcing (giving off a flame), sparking or making a sound (hissing or buzzing) to be live (energized).
- Never go near an overhead power line, including one that is sagging or on the ground.
- If the electrical path is broken due to a damaged overhead or underground line, electrical current can travel through the ground and electrify nearby objects, such as a vehicle, a metal fence, a shovel or other equipment or a person.
- Use the same safety precautions around a damaged or dislodged padmount transformer (“green box”) or any other malfunctioning electrical equipment/source.
- The contents of a padmount transformer box are the same as those found on a power pole and are connected to underground power lines.

At the scene of an accident

- If you are in a car, tractor cab or any type of machinery/equipment that comes into contact with or is near a power line, pole, guy wire or padmount transformer, staying in the car or cab is usually the safest place to be. Stay where you are, call 9-1-1, and wait for CCPPD to arrive and deenergize the power. Do not get out until you have the go-ahead from the CCPPD linemen.
- If you must exit a vehicle or cab due to smoke or fire, there is a recommended method that can help avoid electrocution. Before jumping out, maintain a solid stance and cross your arms across your chest to avoid touching the car or cab while exiting. Make a solid jump to the ground with your feet together. Then, while keeping your feet together, make solid hops and hop away as far as you can.
- If you see someone in trouble who could be exposed to electrical current, do not run toward the scene to help. Instead, call 9-1-1, and warn others not to approach the area.

In your yard

- Always look up and look out when using a long pole, extended tool or ladder. Always carry long items horizontally instead of vertically.
- Do not trim trees or limbs that come within 10 feet of a power line. Only CCPPD linemen are able to clear trees within 10 feet of a power line.
- Always be careful when you are elevated: on your roof, on a hydraulic or scissor lift or high atop a ladder, for instance. Always have 10 feet between you and a power line at all times. Also apply the 10-foot rule to an object you are holding or touching since electricity could flow through the object to you.
- Before digging in your yard, always call Nebraska 8-1-1 or 800-331-566 two to three days prior to digging. The utility marking service is free.

While at play

- If anything gets caught in a power line, such as a drone or kite, never try to retrieve it yourself. Call CCPPD or your local electric utility for assistance.
- Teach kids to never climb trees with power lines running above or through them. Also teach them not to sit or play on a padmount transformer/green box.

Also, please remember to share the road. Tractors, planters, etc. are on the move right now. These vehicles move slowly and can't always get over to let you through. Give yourself ample time to get to your next destination and have patience. The drivers of these vehicles are our family members, neighbors and friends.

If you have any questions, please contact Cuming County Public Power District at 402-372-2463 or 877-572-2463. Always think safety first!

