



# Safety Tips



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**YOU'RE IN POWER.**

## Safety Tips

Electricity powers our everyday comforts, conveniences, and entertainments. Still, this familiar power source must be respected and treated with care. To live safely around electricity, remember these basic safety tips:

- Avoid contact with any wires.
- Never fly kites or model airplanes near electric power lines.
- Do not climb trees with power lines in or near the branches.
- Avoid areas where warning signs have been posted.
- Stay away from damaged or broken utility poles.
- Do not shoot at electrical equipment or power lines.
- Report any downed or broken power lines.

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## Indoor Safety

Inside your home, be sure to follow these rules to help keep your family safe:

- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets in any area with water access.
- Do not place electrical appliances near water holding and storage areas.
- Place safety covers on all unused wall outlets.
- Avoid risk of fire. Use proper wattage when replacing burned-out bulbs for lamps and fixtures.
- Replace burned-out light bulbs immediately; never leave lamp sockets empty.
- Use an adapter with a ground tab for a three-pronged plug. Never attempt to remove the third prong.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis. Do not connect multiple cords, and never run them under rugs, carpets, or furniture, which can cause a fire.
- Replace faulty electrical products.
- Never leave small appliances within the reach of small children and pets.
- Never use a fork or knife to remove food from a toaster.
- Keep heating pads and electric blankets at relatively low settings to avoid overheating; never “tuck in” the sides or ends of an electric blanket.

## Outdoor Safety

Follow these rules to avoid accidental contact with power lines and other electrical equipment, which can cause serious injury or death:

- Assume all overhead and downed power lines are live and dangerous.
- Keep objects at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Inspect surroundings before operating equipment to avoid interference with overhead and underground power lines.
- Do not attempt to raise or move power lines.
- Report any damaged electrical equipment or downed lines immediately.
- Use DIG-TESS, the FREE damage-prevention service that helps excavators locate buried facilities before digging. Just call 1-800-DIGTESS, or submit your locate request online at [digtess.org](http://digtess.org).

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## Line Crews

When crews are constructing or repairing lines, stay clear. Over-curious onlookers risk injury, and they can divert a line worker's attention from the task at hand. Remember these safety rules:

- Stay away from power poles, guy wires, substations, underground transformers, and vehicles.
- Stay away and keep others back from fallen power lines (including telephone and cable TV lines).
- Call your co-op immediately if you see downed lines.
- Keep all objects away from power lines. Ladders, antennae, and kites can cause fatal injuries when they contact a hot power line or equipment.
- Do not touch a person who is in contact with a live power line.
- Avoid overhead power lines and underground transformers when planting trees.
- Don't build anything under overhead power lines.
- When you see crews and equipment along roadsides, slow down and proceed with care.

## Hazard Control

Contact Farmers Electric Cooperative immediately if you observe any of the following hazardous situations:

- Downed power lines.
  - Sagging or broken wires.
  - Trees or fallen trees entangled in power lines.
  - Unsecured electrical equipment such as transformers or loose guy wires.
  - TV antennas entangled in power lines.
  - Cracked, damaged, or leaning utility poles.
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## Harvest-Time Safety

While tending your crops, remember these rules to help ensure safety:

- Survey work areas carefully, and check for ample clearances of power lines when moving or storing combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers, front-end loaders, etc.
- Watch for existing power lines, particularly when planning new construction.
- Take extra precautions when working around trees and brush that might obstruct electric lines and equipment.
- Notify Farmers EC if new construction alters clearances to power lines.