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WA-18

Summertime Safety

Safety around electricity is always good practice, but this time of year when everyone starts spending more time outdoors, it is essential to revisit some of the do's and don'ts. All it takes for electricity to find its way to the ground is a good conductor. That can be almost anything—even you.

A tall piece of machinery, a television antenna, a metal ladder, an irrigation pipe, a wooden pole or a human body part that touches both the wire and ground will complete the circuit and conduct electricity. It is crucial you look before you lift, and call before you dig.

Never go near any downed line, whether you think it is energized or not. Never place a ladder or antenna where it can fall into a power line. Carry equipment low enough to avoid coming near power lines. Never attach any signs or items to a power pole.

To prevent yourself or a loved one from becoming a victim of an electrical accident, follow these other electrical safety tips:

- Before digging into the ground, be sure to call 811 before you dig. They will mark underground utilities to make sure you don't come in contact with power lines, gas lines or any other utilities. One wrong move can result in death or injury from electric shock or an explosion.
- Don't plant tall-growing trees under lines. If a tree has lines running through it, don't climb it or build anything in it.
- Stay away from downed power lines. If someone comes in contact with a live outdoor power line, call Klickitat PUD immediately so the power can be turned off.
- Never fly kites, model airplanes or metallic balloons near power lines or in stormy weather. Avoid using metal or wire on kites. If your kite or balloon gets snagged on overhead lines, don't try to untangle it. Call us at (800) 548-8357.



Jim Smith, General Manager