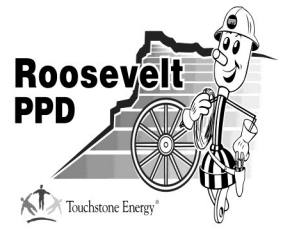


Roosevelt Public Power District

www.rooseveltppd.com



Issue 2

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Make Safety Priority One When Doing Home Improvement and Repair Projects

If summer weather is sprouting thoughts of home improvement projects, you are not alone. Rising temperatures traditionally give rise to more remodeling, repairs, maintenance, landscaping and construction projects both inside and outside the home.

In an effort to make sure the growth in home improvement projects and maintenance work doesn't result in increased injuries, Safe Electricity urges all do-it-yourselfers to take precautions, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines.

Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. It's also a good idea to have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry.

Safety tips to keep in mind include:

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines — leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call the national underground utility locator at 8-1-1 before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.
- Electricity + water = danger. If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

Make certain home electrical systems and wiring are adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions or remodeling projects. Also, energy use is greatest in the hot summer months when air conditioning use peaks. An older home may be inadequately wired for today's electrical consumption, putting your family at risk for fire and electrical shock. Replace worn and outdated circuitry and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics. Safe Electricity strongly recommends do-it-yourselfers to leave this project to the professionals.

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THINK

SAFETY FIRST



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KEEP KIDS SAFE AS THEY HEAD OUTDOORS TO PLAY

WHEN TEMPERATURES BEGIN TO RISE, OUTDOOR AREAS BEGIN TO FILL WITH BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS ENJOYING THE WEATHER. IT'S EASY FOR THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT THAT WE SEE EVERY DAY TO FADE INTO THE BACKGROUND, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS TAKE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AROUND IT. TAKE TIME TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR KIDS HOW TO BE SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY BEFORE THEY HEAD OUTDOORS

SAFE ELECTRICITY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING TIPS TO SHARE WITH KIDS WHEN HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW TO STAY SAFE AROUND OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

- ◆ ALWAYS STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AROUND ELECTRICAL SUBSTATIONS. NEVER ENTER AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION FOR ANY REASON. EVEN IF A PET HAS ENTERED, DO NOT GO IN. CALL THE ELECTRICAL UTILITY FOR HELP. SUBSTATIONS SHOULD ONLY BE ENTERED BY PROFESSIONALS.
- ◆ KITES SHOULD ONLY BE FLOWN DURING GOOD WEATHER CONDITIONS AND IN LARGE, OPEN AREAS LIKE A PARK OR A FIELD. ALWAYS LOOK UP AND CHECK FOR THE LOCATION OF OVERHEAD POWER LINES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, SO THAT YOU CAN BE SURE TO FLY KITES FAR AWAY FROM THEM. A KITE STRING CAN CONDUCT ELECTRICITY FROM AN OVERHEAD LINE DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON ON THE GROUND.
- ◆ BEFORE CLIMBING A TREE, CHECK THAT THE TREE AND ITS BRANCHES ARE NOT LOCATED NEAR ANY OVERHEAD POWER LINES. CLIMBING A TREE IN CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE CAN ENERGIZE THE TREE WITH ELECTRICITY AND LEAD TO ELECTRIC SHOCK OR EVEN DEATH.
- ◆ NEVER THROW OBJECTS AT POWER LINES.
- ◆ IF YOU EVER SEE DOWNED ELECTRICAL WIRES, STAY FAR AWAY. CALL 911 TO HAVE THE UTILITY NOTIFIED. DOWNED LINES DO NOT HAVE TO BE ARCING OR SPARKING TO BE CARRYING ELECTRICITY AND BE DANGEROUS.
- ◆ DO NOT PLAY WITH, TAMPER WITH, OR OPEN OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL BOXES. THEY CONTAIN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR UNDERGROUND SERVICE TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES.
- ◆ CHECK THE FORECAST BEFORE GOING OUTSIDE. DO NOT PLAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IF A THUNDERSTORM IS EXPECTED BECAUSE THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE FROM LIGHTNING WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, "WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS."

THERE ARE ALSO STEPS PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS CAN TAKE TO HELP ENSURE SAFE OUTDOOR PLAY.

- ◆ MAKE SURE ALL OUTDOOR OUTLETS ARE EQUIPPED WITH GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCIs) TO HELP PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK.
- ◆ KEEP ALL LONG HANDLED TOOLS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN SO THEY WILL NOT BE TEMPTED TO REACH FOR OR ACCIDENTALLY HIT AN OVERHEAD POWER LINE.
- ◆ PAY ATTENTION TO TREES AND POWER LINES. DO NOT PLANT TREES NEAR THEM, AND IF THERE IS A TREE THAT HAS GROWN INTO A POWER LINE, MAKE SURE TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL TO TRIM THE TREE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY, VISIT SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG.

Help us to help you! If you have changed your phone number or contact information, please let the office know so that we may update your account. Write it on your bill stub, send us an e-mail, or give us a call. We like to inform our customers if we have to have a planned outage in order for our linemen to work safely; however, if we have old or incorrect information it leaves us unable to contact you.