

Be Safe Around Electricity

Energy provided by electric utilities is an essential part of our everyday lives. It is important to remember that the same power used to make life easier can be dangerous — even deadly. Each year about 600 people die from electricity related accidents. In addition, many more are injured. Electricity always tries to travel to ground so it can complete a circuit. If a person is standing on the ground and comes in contact with a power source, a circuit will be completed. It is important to be safe around electricity. Many power lines are not insulated. Even the ones that are insulated can be very dangerous.

Following These Guidelines Could Prevent Serious Injuries

- Notice where power lines are around your home and avoid going near them. Some power lines are buried underground, so “Call Before Your Dig” — it’s the law.
- If you plan to dig, call toll free at 1-800-DIG-RITE, or 811. This is a free service to help prevent accidents related to buried utility lines and facilities. Missouri law requires any person doing excavation to notify all underground facility owners that may be affected by the work.
- Contact your utility company about trees and shrubs that may be planted around power lines.
- Contact your local utility company if you notice anything out of the ordinary that may be a potential hazard.

- Do-it-yourself utility projects can be dangerous. If you have a problem or project that involves power lines, notify the appropriate utility company.
- If you work outdoors around power lines you should be especially cautious. For example, farmers and house painters should be careful not to let irrigation pipes or metal ladders come in contact with overhead lines.

Tips for Children

- Don't play around power lines, boxes or transformers.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Don't climb trees that are near power lines.

For More Information

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned water, sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC also has limited jurisdiction over telecommunications providers in Missouri. The PSC works to ensure Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related issue that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at 1-800-392-4211 or visit our website at psc.mo.gov.



Missouri Public Service Commission

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