Trees and Power Lines

Electric utilities in Missouri want to provide safe and reliable service. As part of that goal, they manage trees near their power lines. Residents should not attempt to trim trees near power lines. Serious injury — and even death — may result when trying to prune trees near power lines.

REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST

Every year in Missouri, people are injured when they climb or prune trees near power lines. High-voltage lines are not insulated, and direct contact results in electrocution.

A tree touching a power line can also become energized, causing injury if someone comes in contact with it. Children should never climb or play around trees that are touching power lines.

Electric utilities routinely inspect trees near their lines and schedule maintenance for the high-voltage lines on easements. The utility will prune the tree and determine the required clearance based on a number of factors, including the voltage on the line and the type of tree. Do not prune your own trees near high-voltage power lines. Contact your electric utility.

Property owners are responsible for trimming trees that interfere with low-voltage, insulated lines that connect the high-voltage lines to the customer's electric meter. Please check with your electric utility to identify these wires and ask that your power be temporarily disconnected so that pruning can be done safely.

Do not plant trees that will grow as tall as the power lines under the power lines. If outdoor plans involve excavation, call Missouri One-Call System at 1 (800) DIG-RITE (1-800-344-7483) or 811. The call will trigger a request to locate all underground utilities near the planned excavation site.

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.

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