



# Power Pointz

news from  
**Garland Light & Power Co.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## How to reach us

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## Know What's Below, Call Before You Dig

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first. Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call, even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences. Call 811 from anywhere in the country at least two working days but no more than ten working days before any excavation starts (excluding holidays and weekends) and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. You can still also call 1-800-849-2476. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and you affected local utilities companies will be notified about your intent to dig. In a few days, they'll send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely. Also look up and look out for overhead power lines. With the bigger equipment you're using, many backhoes, cranes and other equipment can reach some power lines. Please pre-mark the site of intended excavation in white. Remember, always call 811 before you start any digging project! You'll avoid injury, expense and a very inconvenient day in the dark.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Summer Hours

Garland Light & Power is changing to a 4/10 work week from May 7 to Oct 1

Hours of operation will be:  
7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
Closed on Fridays

Standby crews will be available from Friday through Sunday for outage situations by calling:

754-2881  
754-2



## Budget Billing

**If you are interested in participating in the budget billing program, please call the office and we will mail you an application. Payments will be the same for 11 months beginning in June and the following May will be the settlement month. There are a few eligibility requirements that you must meet before you can apply for the program.**

- Service must be Residential Rate Classification.**
- Customer must have received service at the same billing location for a period of 12 consecutive months or more.**
- Account for electric service must be current and in good standing.**

## Ease Into Green With Easy Changes

If you want to do your part for the environment by using less energy but you're afraid to make your home uncomfortable, make changes that nobody will notice.

Here are a few ways to conserve energy and reduce your carbon footprint that you might not have considered.

1. When you use your printer, at home or at work, print on both sides of the paper.
2. Invest in a single power strip to tuck behind your entertainment center. Plug your TV, DVD player, speakers and other electronics into it. Then, switch the power strip off every night before bedtime so none of those devices draw any electricity when not in use.
3. Wait until your dishwasher is full before running it. And stop washing dishes by hand: That uses up twice the water and energy as the dishwasher.
4. Wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot. That could save you up to \$40 a year.
5. Lower your water heater's temperature by just 2 degrees. You won't notice the difference when you shower. But you will notice it on your energy bill.
6. Keep your freezer full. It takes more energy to cool an empty space than a full one.
7. Hang an outdoor clothesline. Pull nearly dry clothes out of the washer and hang them; they don't need to go into the dryer. That will cut the number of dryer cycles you use.
8. Slide your refrigerator a couple of inches away from the wall. Pressing it up against a wall limits circulation behind it and makes the appliance work harder, which uses more energy.
9. Skip the hair dryer. You'll save energy by air drying rather than blow drying. And your hair will be healthier, too.
10. Turn things off when you're not using them:: lights, ceiling fans, space heaters, the TV, your computer, anything that's electric.



## Hire The Right Electrician For The Job

If you didn't buy your home new, or if it is more than 20 years old, you should have an electrician check your electrical system to be sure it can safely handle your family's growing electricity needs.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers tips for selecting the best electrician for the job.

- Look online for a directory of local electrical contractors.
- Ask the electrician to show you current insurance certificates for liability, property damage and workers compensation.
- Choose an electrician who has a contractor's license from the state.
- Do not hire electricians who go door-to-door asking for work. Reputable companies don't need to do that.
- Call more than one electrical contractor for estimates so you can comparison shop.
- Ask for contractor for local references or check with the Better Business Bureau.
- Determine if the electrician is part of a national or regional electrical association. Membership doesn't guarantee a quality inspection, but associations offer educational programs to keep members up to date on technological advancements.



## Repairing The System After A Spring Storm

Lights out? Thirty-one percent of power outages are triggered by the weather. Lineworkers must battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly as possible.

Garland knows its members want to know why the lights are out and when will they be back on. First we must find the problems. Then, we follow a series of steps to bring the lights back on.

Efforts are made to restore power to the largest number of members as quickly as possible. Then, crews fix problems impacting small groups of members.

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems. They start with distribution substations. Each substation serves hundreds of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations

to discover if problems stem from lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

If the problem cannot be isolated at a substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members.

If local outages persist, supply lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside business, schools and homes.

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your home may need to be repaired. Always call us at 307-754-2881 to report an outage. This helps the crew isolate local issues.

## Safety Tips During Thunderstorm Season

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross.

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows close. Get out of mobile home than can blow over in high winds.
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars go indoors. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery powered TVs or radios instead.
- Shutter windows and close outside door securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts, and sheds are NOT safe.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.