



July 2018

Power Pointz

news from
Garland Light & Power Co.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Drive Safe Near Utility Workers

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Summer months bring warm weather and long sunny days. That means that many of us will be on the roads and highways more than ever, driving for vacation or recreational pursuits.

In summer and every other season, it's important that we all remember to drive cautiously, to watch out for other careless or aggressive drivers, to stay under the posted speed limits, to be alert for slow moving vehicles and to plan a few extra minutes to allow for traffic delays. That caution can make the difference in whether we arrive safely at our destination. It can also make a life and death difference for men and women whose work places them alongside the roads that we are driving.

That includes our GLP linemen. As part of their jobs, our linemen routinely work along road ways, and that sometimes includes highways. It often involves servicing poles or lines alongside the road, but sometimes it is getting fallen electrical lines off the roadway or stringing new lines above the highway. In all cases, our workers are at the mercy of speeding vehicles and careless drivers.

The situation can be especially treacherous at night, in rain or fog, or during extreme weather conditions.

The new "move over" state law goes into effect on July 1st. Drivers will have to move over for people working along the highways or face a \$235 fine. The new law aims to extend protections currently afforded to law enforcement and first-responders.

Of course, utility workers aren't the only ones who need the extra space. Emergency responders such as police officers, highway patrolmen, firefighters, EMT's, tow truck drivers, and DOT highway workers also endanger themselves daily in their work along the highways.

Far too often these workers have been tragically injured or killed while doing their work.

So, please drive safe and enjoy your summer. Please know that GLP employees will be on the job, working to "keep" the lights on..and the AC running! Happy Summer!



To Save On A/C, Spend More Time Outside

If just the thought of easing up on the air conditioning in the middle of summer heat save makes you sweat, consider this trick to save electricity: Go outside!

1. Spend weekend days outdoors. Before you leave the house for the day, turn the a/c up a few degrees. No need to keep your house super-cool if you're not going to be in it.
2. Turn all of the lights and electronics off before you head outdoors, even for a little while.
3. Don't cook on your stove or in your oven. Grill outdoors; prepare big salads, pack a picnic, or order in.



811

Don't forget to call 811

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.

Every digging job requires a call, even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt services to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for repair cost.

Remember 48 hours notice is required before you start to dig.

PAYING A DELIQUENT BILL!

Don't wait to long. A job GLP employees and some customers dread each month is collections of delinquent electric accounts.

Prior to doing collections, GLP notifies the customer by mail. We send a notice with the amount listed that is owed.

When you pay by the due date you keep money in your pocket because you will not pay these additional charges.

TRIP CHARGES

Penalties.....	1.5%
Collection Charges.....	\$100.00
Reconnect Charges.....	\$100.00
Overtime Reconnect Charges.....	\$135.00

Please pay the amount of your delinquent bill!!

Outdoor Safety Is Not Child's Play

Warmer weather is here. Those sunny days beckon the kids to go out and play. That makes it a good time to remind them of electrical hazards they may find as they roam yards and open spaces.

Take time to point out electrical equipment such as overhead power lines and the service lines bringing electricity to your house. These are not insulated and should never be touched. Kids should stay off of trees that could possibly touch any of these lines. And they should fly their kites far away from power lines and drop the kite string immediately if the kite gets caught on a power line.

If power lines are underground and a big green metal box sits either curbside or along a back fence in the neighborhood, let the kids know that these are not places to jump and play. They contain electrical equipment. Teach them to never touch anything inside of a box if it happens to be

open. For more summer safety tips, visit safeelectricity.org



Install CO Alarms Properly

If your home has any appliance that burns gas, kerosene, wood or charcoal, you need carbon monoxide detectors.

So, if you ever use a gas operated furnace, space heater, boiler, stove, water heater, clothes dryer or fireplace, install CO alarms to protect your family in case anything goes wrong with the appliances and too much of the odorless, colorless gas gets into the indoor air you breathe.

If you have a barbecue grill, lawn mower, back-up generator, camp stove, car or power tool, and you store them in your home or attached garage, install CO alarms.

Install at least one alarm on each floor of the house. Every bedroom needs one in the room or within 10 feet of every sleeping area.

If you use your attic as a living space, install a CO alarm there, too.

If your garage is attached to the house, place

another CO detector inside the home near the garage, not in the garage.

Place another one about 20 feet away from your furnace. Keep all CO alarms away from open flames, including pilot lights.

If you install CO alarms near bathrooms, place them about 10 feet away so the humidity from the shower doesn't interfere with the device.

Mount the CO alarm on the wall about five feet above the floor or on the ceiling.

Electric appliances do not produce carbon monoxide.



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Efficiency Tips For Shops and Barns

There are many benefits to having an energy efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe; save money on your electric bill; keep your animals happier and healthier; and save you from costly structural repairs.

Whether you are looking to build a new structure, or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency when building a new structure on your property:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building affects your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If hiring a contractor to help build the structure, look for companies who specialize in “green” building and energy efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns

offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Follow these tips to make energy efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect reducing the temperatures by three to six degrees.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a two degree temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacterial from building and will keep insects at bay.



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