



# Power Pointz

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Burning Around Poles

**May 2017**

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Burning season is here and with the annual ritual of spring burning, Garland Light & Power would like to remind our members to be safe with fire this spring.

When burning close to power poles and pad mount transformers, we suggest raking the debris away from the base. Trim away large stalks that may have grown close to the pole as this will lessen the chance of the pole or transformer catching fire. Wet down the pole a few feet from the ground.



Members should use caution when burning close to any of our underground equipment. Heat from a fire can melt the exterior cover as well as the elbows and ground wires inside.

The cost to replace a pad mount transformer is about \$3600. The cost to replace a pole is about \$2500. Whoever is doing the burning will be charged the cost to replace these items. So, be careful and never leave a fire unattended.

## Summer Hours

Garland Light & Power is changing to a 4/10 work  
Week from May 1 to Oct 2

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**

## Brush Better With Electric Toothbrush

Your arm won't get tired so fast if you brush with an electric toothbrush instead of a manual one. That means you and your children will brush more consistently.

Studies of electric toothbrushes show those that work with a rotating action remove more plaque and reduce gingivitis more effectively than manual brushes, even after using the electric device for a short time.

The toothbrush does most of the work for the brusher and makes it easier to brush for the recommended two minutes.

Still, it's important to maintain the electric toothbrush by cleaning the power handle and brush head after every use. A few other tips:

- Avoid using whitening toothpastes that contain abrasives with an electric toothbrush. The abrasives act like sand to wear out the tiny gears in the brush heads.
- Unplug the toothbrush's charging base once a month to let the batteries discharge. Recharge to a full charge when the batteries are nearly empty. This may help prolong the life of the batteries.

## Top Priority: An Electrical Inspection

Have you ever hired an electrician to do a whole house safety inspection? Make it a priority this year.

Especially if your home is older, you could be using light fixtures and outlets that are waiting to burn your house down. The components of overhead lights and behind the wall wiring don't last forever, but most homeowners wait until there's a visible problem like a spark, smoke or they can't turn something on, before they call a licensed electrician.

A fully licensed and insured electrician can inspect every outlet, wiring, circuits, and appliances and let you know what needs fixing

or replacing. In some cases, the inspection might come just in time to save your family from a shock, an electrocution or a house fire.

Wintertime is prime time for electrical fires. We run the furnace non-stop; we leave the lights on longer; we take longer hot showers, and we tend to stay indoors, so we watch more TV, cook at home and give our electronic equipment a workout.

As we press our homes electrical system into overtime, anything that was waiting to go wrong probably will.

Make your family's safety your top priority this year.

## Exhaust Fans: More Necessary Than You Know

Some older homes don't have exhaust fans in the bathroom or kitchen. Others have old fans that are so noisy nobody ever turns them on.

Adding or upgrading exhaust fans can make a home safer and more comfortable. An exhaust fan's primary purpose is to remove moisture from the room. But they also remove bathroom and cooking odors and reduce fumes from cleaning chemicals.

Plus, they can save your paint. Excessive

moisture on walls can cause paint to bubble, peel and chip. And excess humidity that every shower you take creates can cause mold to accumulate.

Exhaust fans prevent those problems. So invest in good ones, and hire a pro who knows how to install them properly. Choose a quiet model so it won't annoy you when you turn it on.

And turn it off once the air in the room clears.

## Outdoor Work Has Its Own Set Of Safety Rules

Play it safe around electricity when you're outdoors this spring. Here are 10 tips:

1. Keep power cords, tools and equipment away from water and wet areas while you're using them and when you're storing them.
2. Before you climb a ladder or extend the handle of a tool, look up so you can clear overhead power lines.
3. Notify your electric cooperative before you dig in your yard, just in case buried electrical equipment is located on your property.
4. When you plant a tree or install a satellite dish, locate it at least 15 feet away from overhead power lines.
5. Educate your children about the dangers of power lines. Insist that they fly kites and climb trees far away from electrical lines and equipment. Everyone in your family should know better than to try to untangle a kite or a model airplane that gets caught in a power line.
6. Inspect power tools for frayed cords, broken plugs, and weathered or damaged housings, before the first use this spring.
7. Scope out the area before you trim tree limbs and shrubs, as power lines are sometimes hidden by foliage. Trimming branches that are growing into or around overhead power lines on your property is not a job for a homeowner. Contact your electric cooperative to do that dangerous work.
8. Rid the area around your outdoor air conditioning unit of plants and clutter so the air can circulate around it freely.
9. If you use extension cords when you work with outdoor tools, replace them all with models designed for outdoor use. Also, check that extension cords are rated for use with your equipment.
10. Beware of all electric lines. Even low-voltage electric lines and cords can be hazardous if damaged or improperly handled.

## Annual Meeting/Special Meeting 2017

Garland Light & Power held its annual meeting March 9th at The Commons, dinner and dessert was served to approximately 100 people. Included in the business to come before the membership was the election of two directors. **A quorum was not reached and a special meeting will be held at the Park County Fairgrounds on May 16th to elect directors.**

Jerry Thompson, Board President, reported on cooperative growth, capital credits, scholarships and introduced employees to the crowd.

Mary Ann Keeler, General Manager, reviewed the system operations and financials for the past year.

President Thompson then announced it was time for door prizes. There was also a progressive drawing held for a cash prize of which all GLP members were eligible for, but had to be present to win. The cash prize of \$700 was not awarded this year.

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**GARLAND'S  
OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
MAY 29TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 14TH**

