



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We are committed to the well-being of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.*

### How to reach us

Garland Light & Power Co.  
755 Highway 14A  
Powell, Wyoming 82435  
307-754-2881  
Fax: 307-754-5320

E-mail: [glp@garlandpower.org](mailto:glp@garlandpower.org)

Office hours: 7:00am-5:30pm

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# Power Pointz

September 2019

## Celebrate Farm Safety In September

Farmers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms. Electrical safety is one of the priorities during National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 15-21.

The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs, antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.

Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows, may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest. However, failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Most farmsteads could use a very careful overhead visual inspection of electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and pole guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.

However, today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended; and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed the height of power lines. A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. Don't take matters into your own hands. They may not be as high as they look. Always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line completely around it, whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it. A 53-year old Michigan truck driver who was cleaning sugar beets out of his truck unknowingly raised the bed into a 4,800 volt overhead power line. As he stood in the wet field and touched an energized truck bed, he was fatally burned.

Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm. Always keep in mind that electricity doesn't allow mistakes, and neither should you.



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## Give Safety A Shot When Preparing For Hunting

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season. A few moments devoted to safety can help prevent an accident with utility equipment. Safe Electricity urges hunters to take precautions and be aware of potential electrical hazards while hunting.

- Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure that you have safety items to signal for help in case of emergency. Always carry emergency supplies in the event of an accident. A cell phone, whistle, and flashlight are necessary items to carry with you throughout a hunting trip.
- Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.
- Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer’s instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and alive. While going up to the stand, keep at least three points of contact while you climb.
- Never shoot nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system. Damage to electrical equipment can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby.
- If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it inside a cabin or RV. Make sure that it is used outside where there is plenty ventilation.



## SCHOOL HAS STARTED.....

Drive Carefully and Watch for School Buses Stopped for Children in the Roadway!!



## How 811 Works

### Calling 811-What can I expect?



**Call 811** from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging and your call will automatically be routed to your local one call center.

You'll give the operator information about how to contact you, where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing. Your quick conversation with the operator will last a few minutes.

Utility companies who have potential facilities in the area of your dig site will be notified about your intent to dig.

Each affected utility company will send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground utility lines. This typically occurs within 48 working hours.

### Remember the 811 process

**Notify** your local one call center by calling 811.

**Wait** the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.

**Confirm** that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.

**Respect** the marks.

**Dig Carefully** around the marks with care.

