

Electrical Safety Outdoors

At work or play, stay safe outdoors when electricity is around. Here are six tips to keep you from harm's way:

1. KEEP CLEAR OF POWER LINES

- When power lines are nearby, use wooden or fiberglass ladders--not metal.
- Never place a ladder where it can fall into a power line.
- Carry ladders or long-handled tools low enough to avoid coming into contact with overhead lines.
- Don't install an antenna where it might fall and hit a power line.

2. CHECK OUT YOUR EQUIPMENT

- Keep all electrical appliances a safe distance away from water and don't use power tools when standing in wet areas.
- Never use an electric mower when the grass is wet.
- Power tools should be properly grounded, and use only heavy-duty extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weather proof covers.

3. LANDSCAPE WITH CARE

- Know what's below and call **Digsafe** before you dig even an inch. They can tell you the location of any underground lines (electrical, water, gas, phone or cable).
- Don't plant tall-growing trees under power lines. If you have a tree with power lines running through it, don't climb it or build anything in it. Call if the tree needs trimming.
- Keep bushy shrubs away from your meter.

4. AVOID SUBSTATIONS AND TRANSFORMERS

- Instruct your children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.
- If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that has been vandalized, call your utility immediately.
- Teach children to look for "DANGER" signs displayed on all high-voltage equipment and to never enter a substation. If there toys get inside of the station call IMLD and we will retrieve it.

5. FLY WITH SAFETY

- Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines. It is also important never to use wire or metal on kites--only dry string.
- Don't release metallic balloons. They can get caught in power lines and cause outages.
- Let the utility untangle kites or balloons that do get snagged on overhead lines. Don't try to do it yourself.

6. LEAVE DOWNED POWER LINES ALONE

- If you come across a downed power line, call us immediately. **DO NOT GO NEAR IT.**
- If a power line falls on your car, stay inside and call 911 unless the car catches on fire. In such a case, look for a clear path from the car to a safe place, jump clear of the car without touching metal and the ground at the same time. Once on the ground keep both feet together and shuffle or hop away from the vehicle
- If someone comes in contact with a live power line, the only safe thing to do is call 911 and the utility immediately so the power can be turned off. **NEVER ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE VICTIM OR THE POWER LINE** or you risk becoming a victim yourself.

Electrical safety should be a part of the daily routine for you and your family. Use this important resource wisely and know what to do in an emergency. Keep all emergency numbers near the phone.