

## Outdoor Safety

- ❑ Before you dig up your yard, ask your electric utility for the location of underground lines.
- ❑ Don't plant tall-growing trees under power lines. If power lines are running through a tree, stay away from it. Call your utility to get it trimmed.
- ❑ Keep bushy shrubs away from your meter.



## Staying Safe During Emergencies

- ❑ If you have an electrical fire, unplug the appliance or turn off the main power switch. Use a CO2 fire extinguisher or plain baking soda to put it out. Never use water to put out an electrical fire. Call 911 immediately.
- ❑ Turn off the power source if you can, or use a wooden object, dry rope or dry clothing to separate the victim from the power source.
- ❑ Do not touch a person who has been shocked.
- ❑ Make sure your children stay away from substation fences and pad-mounted transformers. And if you see a fence or transformer cabinet that has been vandalized, call your utility.
- ❑ Teach your children to look for "Danger" signs displayed on all high voltage equipment.
- ❑ If a power line falls on your car, stay inside. If your car catches fire, jump clear of the car, and do not touch metal and the ground at the same time.
- ❑ If you see a downed power line, call your utility immediately. If someone has come in contact with a power line, call your utility and an ambulance. Do not go near the power line or attempt to move the victim.



# HOW to Prevent Electrical Accidents

Protect yourself and others both inside and outside your home.

For more information, visit us online at  
[www.ncpublicpower.com](http://www.ncpublicpower.com).



**NC Public Power**  
City Owned Electric Service

## Keeping Appliances Safe

- ❑ Keep your appliances in good condition. When they need repairs, call a qualified service person. When an electrical cord gets worn or frayed, replace the appliance.
- ❑ Always unplug appliances (by pulling the plug, not the cord) when they're not in use.
- ❑ Use extension cords on a temporary basis only.
- ❑ Never stick metal objects, like knives or forks, into your toaster.
- ❑ Keep all appliances at a safe distance from water.



## Water Hazards

- ❑ Don't stand in water or on a damp floor when using appliances, and don't put electrical parts in water.
- ❑ Never touch or lean on plumbing pipes while touching an appliance.
- ❑ If you're putting in a swimming pool in your yard, don't locate it under power lines.

## Electric Safety for Children

- ❑ Cover seldom-used outlets with plastic safety plugs.
- ❑ Put safety covers on frequently-used outlets that let appliance cords pass in and out.
- ❑ Replace burned out bulbs immediately. Never leave sockets empty.
- ❑ Keep small metal objects that kids could poke into outlets out of harm's way.
- ❑ Put fans and portable heaters out of reach.
- ❑ Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- ❑ Only use dry string on kites, never wire or metal of any kind.
- ❑ Don't release metallic balloons into the air. They can get caught in power lines and cause outages.
- ❑ Let your utility untangle kites or balloons that get snagged on overhead lines.



## Staying Grounded

- ❑ Have a qualified electrical contractor inspect your home to make sure it is properly grounded.
- ❑ Large appliances should have their own circuit and be grounded with a three-pronged plug.
- ❑ Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are ground fault protected and have waterproof covers.

## When the Power Goes Out

- ❑ If you lose power in your home, first see if you have blown a fuse or tripped a circuit breaker.
- ❑ Don't stand on a damp floor when resetting a circuit breaker.
- ❑ Never replace a fuse with a copper penny or wrap one in aluminum foil.
- ❑ If your power does not come on within a reasonable time, call your electric utility.

## Portable Heater Safety

- ❑ Keep space heaters away from flammable items like curtains, sheets or blankets.
- ❑ Buy heaters that automatically shut off when knocked over.
- ❑ Unplug the heater when not in use.

## Power Tools Safety.

- ❑ Be sure your tools are adequate for the job. Circuits must be the right size and must be grounded.
- ❑ Use the safety release to prevent accidental starting.
- ❑ Keep your tools clean. Use and store them in a dry place, as dampness increases the possibility of shocks.
- ❑ Protect cords from chemicals, gases or oil. Coil them loosely when finished.
- ❑ When working outside, use only heavy-duty extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- ❑ Never use an electric mower when the grass is wet.

