

Outdoor Spring Chore Tips to Stay Safe

After spending long winter days indoors, most folks love to get outside in spring, even if just to do chores. But outdoor chores can bring electrical hazards.

For example, ladders contacting power lines cause 9 percent of electrocution-related deaths each year, according to recent data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Landscaping, gardening and farming equipment cause another 7 percent.

To avoid electrical hazards, the CPSC and Electrical Safety Foundation International suggest you and your family follow these simple tips:

- Use a fiberglass or wooden ladder if you must work near overhead wires.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Store power tools indoors.
- Unplug outdoor tools when not in use.

- Do not carry power tools by the cord.
- Avoid damp conditions when using electricity. Keep all electrical devices and cords away from water. Place waterproof covers on all outdoor outlets.
 - Install ground-fault circuit interrupters in outlets where water may be nearby.
 - Only use extension cords marked for outdoor use. Match the power needs of an electric tool or appliance to the cord's label information.
 - Never touch a person or an object that has made contact with a power line.
 - At least 72 hours before engaging in any type of excavation work, call 811, the national Call Before You Dig phone number. Local utilities will be notified to mark the approximate location of underground lines on your property.
 - Teach children to stay away from electric transformers and substations, and explain what posted warning signs mean. ■

Community Meetings Heading Your Way

During the next few months, Klickitat PUD staff and commissioners will attend various community and city council meetings, and meet with other community action groups throughout Klickitat County.

Our goal is to interact with customers and discuss items of interest specific to each community in relation to the electric, water and wastewater services provided by the PUD.

- April 11: Dallesport/Murdock Town Council, 7 p.m., Dallesport Community Center.
 - April 13: Ponderosa Park Owners Association, 9 a.m., KPUD meeting room.
 - May 3: Wishram Community, 6 p.m., Wishram Fire Hall.
- For a complete schedule of meeting dates, times and locations as it is developed, check the calendar at www.klickitapud.com. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

- 5-7**—Portland Swap Meet, Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Portland Expo Center
- 6**—The Great Electrifying Event, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bonneville Dam Washington Shore Visitor Center
- 6**—Fools Fest, 2 to 10 p.m., Walking Man Brewing, Stevenson
- 6**—L.A. Comedy Machine, 7 p.m., Granada Theatre, The Dalles
- 6**—Cider Rite of Spring, noon to 6 p.m., Leftbank Annex, Portland
- 6**—All Things Poultry event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Benton County Fairgrounds Building 1, Kennewick
- 6**—Daddy-Daughter Dance: Friends, Flowers & Fairy Dust, 6 to 8 p.m., Fort Dalles Readiness Center
- 6**—Young Life Tri-Cities 5K 4 Kids, 9 a.m., Columbia Point Marina Park, Richland
- 6-7**—Vancouver Women's Show, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Clark County Event Center, Ridgefield
- 8**—Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, 7 p.m., Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River
- 8**—Chicago, 7 p.m., Retter & Co. Theatre at The Toyota Center, Kennewick
- 9**—KPUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 11-13**—Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Portland Expo Center
- 12**—Swing Dance with the CGOA Jazz Collective, 7 p.m., Discovery Center, The Dalles

- 12**—Crimson Fest, 4 to 10 p.m., WSU Tri-Cities Campus, Richland
- 12-13**—CBC Jazz Unlimited 2019, all day, wind ensembles and jazz bands, Columbia Basin College, Pasco
- 12-13**—Vancouver Brewfest, Friday, 4 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Esther Short Park
- 12-14**—House & Outdoor Living Show, Friday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oregon Convention Center, Portland
- 13**—Texas Tribute: ZZ Top tribute band, 7:30 p.m., Granada Theatre, The Dalles
- 13**—Second Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum, Hood River
- 13-14**—Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club Show, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Benton County Fairgrounds Building 1, Kennewick
- 14**—Bridge to Brews Race, 7:30 a.m., Waterfront Park, Portland
- 19-20**—CBC Jazz Unlimited 2019, all day, concert and jazz choirs, Columbia Basin College, Pasco
- 20**—Hard-Pressed Cider Fest, noon to 7 p.m., Stadelman Drive, Hood River
- 20**—Pasco Jaycees' Kids Easter Egg Hunt, 8:30 to 10 a.m., Pasco Softball Sporting Complex
- 23**—KPUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 25**—Halestorm concert, 7 p.m., Toyota Center, Kennewick
- 26-28**—Northwest Cherry Festival, Friday, 5 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; various locations, The Dalles