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WA-18



Be Mindful of Outdoor Electrical Safety

ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY PATHDOC

By Pam Blair

The arrival of warmer weather signals the start of outdoor pursuits—everything from flying a kite to cutting the grass. While enjoying yourself outside, make sure you follow electrical safety rules.

- When overhead power lines are nearby, use wooden or fiberglass ladders—not metal. Look before you lift.
- Before digging into the ground, call and make sure you won't come in contact with underground power lines or any other utilities.
- Never fly kites, model airplanes or metallic balloons near power lines, or in stormy weather. Use only dry string. Avoid using metal or wire on kites. If your kite or balloon gets caught on power lines, don't try to untangle it. Call Klickitat PUD.
- Inspect power tools before each use for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. Make sure tools or extension cords used outdoors are marked for that use.
- Never remove the third prong of a three-pronged plug. If possible, convert two-pronged outlets to fit three-pronged plugs, using an adapter with a ground tab.
- Don't try to repair electric products yourself.
- Keep outdoor outlets and electrical products covered and dry between uses. Never use electrically operated power tools in the rain or in wet conditions. Even morning dew can turn electricity into a serious shock hazard.
- Know the location of circuit breakers or fuses. Ensure you can easily reach them.
- Put a ground-fault circuit interrupter between your electric power source and your electric product.
- Don't plant tall-growing trees under lines. If a tree has lines running through it, don't climb it.
- Teach children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.
- Stay away from downed power lines.