Power line safety tips

Electricity is a safe and reliable energy source; but, like any other type of energy, it can be hazardous if not used with caution. Duke Energy cares about your safety. Here are some important safety tips to share with your family to help you stay safe around power lines.

**Downed power lines**

Never touch a downed power line! If you see a downed or sagging power line, contact Duke Energy immediately. Keep others away, and consider all power lines – including trees or anything in contact with power lines – as energized and dangerous.

If a power line falls across a car that you’re in, stay in the car. If you MUST get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground. Never drive over a downed power line.

**Flying high**

Kite flying should be fun, not fatal. Make sure high flyers in your family know the hazards of kites in and around power lines.

- Fly kites in open areas, away from power lines and busy streets.
- When flying your kite, make sure you use a dry and nonmetallic string.
- If a kite gets snagged in a tree or power line, don’t try to pull it loose or climb up after it; let go of the string immediately.

**Staying cool**

It’s easy to keep your cool in the summer heat as long as there’s a swimming pool nearby. If you’re thinking about installing a pool in your yard or will be working around one, consider these tips:

- Save yourself time and expense by calling Duke Energy. A representative can help you determine the safest location for your pool with regard to nearby electric lines.
- A swimming pool, diving board and pool deck need to be a proper distance from power lines, in accordance with the National Electrical Code and National Electrical Safety Code.
- Be especially careful when using long-handled pool cleaners or rescue poles. You can avoid an electrical accident by making sure they are used only at a safe distance from overhead wires.
- If your pool has already been installed, check to see that it isn’t located too close to either underground or overhead lines.

**Power lines and ladders don’t mix**

Installing and removing ladders, scaffoldings, antenna and metal poles is one of the most common types of power line contacts. And each can be fatal when they come into contact with power lines.

- When installing or removing any type of antenna, always know where the power lines are located.
- Make sure to plan your work well and get enough help to do the job safely.
- Aluminum ladders are awkward to handle. Whether you’re installing or removing your antenna, painting, cleaning gutters or working on the roof – be careful. Contact with a power line can injure or kill.
- When using a ladder or installing/removing an antenna, make sure its distance away from any power line is at least
10 feet or twice its total height – whichever is greater. If the antenna or ladder falls onto a power line, don’t touch it. Instead, call Duke Energy for help.

**Trees in bloom**

Trees conduct electricity, so take precautions that your tree-trimming equipment does not contact power lines.

- Be sure to locate the power lines around your trees before trimming and/or removing and keep clear of them.
- If you or your contractor needs to do tree work close to power lines, call Duke Energy before work begins. A company representative will meet you at the site to determine the safest procedure for cutting branches.

**Landscaping**

If you’re planning to do some outdoor decorating, don’t forget about underground utilities. More and more power lines are being installed underground. Normally underground utilities are installed on property lines or public rights of way. Contact with underground utilities can be as hazardous as contact with overhead lines.

To help prevent serious personal injury, property damage and damage to underground facilities, you must call 811 before digging. Each state has a required wait time. There is no charge for the service and the call is free. You can also use the online process at Call811.com.

**Questions**

If you have any questions about power line safety, or see a fallen power line or safety hazard involving our equipment, call Duke Energy at:

**Duke Energy Carolinas**: 800.777.9898

**Indiana**: 800.521.2232

**Kentucky/Ohio**: 800.544.6900

**Duke Energy Progress**: 800.452.2777

**Florida**: 800.700.8744

For more safety information, visit our website at duke-energy.com.

**Safety is our priority.**

At Duke Energy, we have a goal – eliminate injury and death from power line contacts. We want to accomplish this goal by making power line awareness an essential part of everyone’s outside activities.

**Fact**

Power lines that serve your homes and businesses are not insulated like home appliance cords.

**Fact**

Power lines carry from 120 up to 500,000 volts of electricity that can injure or kill on contact.

**Fact**

The simplest rule is to know where your power lines are located and stay away.

**Play it safe.** Stay away from power lines.