

# Newsletter



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## Fall Yard Safety

Fall is approaching and with it comes fall yard work and projects to complete before winter arrives. Yard work and home maintenance projects can be dangerous without taking safety into account. Tree trimming accidents, in particular, can be very serious. The most common accidents are electrocution, falling from trees, and being struck by trees or limbs. Accidents can leave you permanently injured or cut your life short; do not take unnecessary risks.

### Stay Clear of Power Lines

Treat all electric lines and equipment with caution. When working in the yard and around your house – whether you're working on gutters, installing or adjusting a satellite dish or antenna, or trimming trees – be aware of overhead wires and always keep yourself and anything you're carrying or holding at least 10' (ten feet) away from power lines. You can be seriously injured or killed if you or any equipment you're touching comes in contact with a power line.

Underground power lines are just as dangerous as overhead ones. If your project involves digging, make sure the locations of underground power lines are marked. Call 811 to have underground utilities located and marked for free. Plant trees and shrubs away from meters, switching cabinets and boxed transformers. Vegetation blocking electrical equipment makes meter reading, repairs, and maintenance challenging and sometimes dangerous for utility workers.

Always contact your local Cooperative to:

- Trim trees near power lines; only qualified line-clearance tree trimmers are allowed within 10' (ten feet) of energized power lines
- Make sure they are aware of downed lines; the ground around a downed power line becomes electrified and you can be electrocuted without touching the line. Never trim trees near downed power lines!

### General Safety

- Read and follow directions that come with all yard equipment; pay attention to safety instructions and look for warning labels
- Always wear protective equipment when trimming trees – hard hat, gloves, boots, leg protection, safety glasses, hearing protection, etc.
- Use only wooden and fiberglass ladders – metal ladders conduct electricity
- Never use electrical equipment or tools near a pool or other wet areas. Additionally, make sure outlets are equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter, designed to automatically disconnect if the tool comes into contact with water