



Duquesne Light

Our Energy...Your Power

News Release

Date August 12, 2015
For Release Upon Receipt
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Duquesne Light Reminds Customers About Outdoor Electrical Safety During the Summer

PITTSBURGH – With the majority of outdoor home repairs taking place during the summer, Duquesne Light is offering tips for customers doing outdoor electrical work this season.

“Safety is always the most important factor when working around electricity,” said Warren Stough, Director of Safety, Environmental and Workforce Development at Duquesne Light Company. “Working outside around electricity or with electrical equipment can cause unforeseen issues. It’s important to be prepared and take appropriate precautions to protect yourself and those around you.”

Here are some tips to help keep you safe:

Working Around Overhead Power Lines

Be careful when moving antennas, metal gutters or other long metal items that could inadvertently touch an energized power line. Use non-conducting tools if possible and stay at least 10 feet from any power lines. When working on a roof, be cautious of the location of power lines so that you don't stand up and accidentally come in contact with a line.

Outdoor Power Tool Safety

Use power tools that have a three-wire cord plugged into a grounded receptacle, are double insulated, or are powered by an outlet with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. If damaged, stop using it immediately. Repair it or replace it. Always use an extension cord marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools.

Ladder Safety

Use extra caution when using a ladder near power lines as you do repair work, remodeling or maintenance work around your home. Utilize a non-conductive ladder if possible. Keep ladders and tools at least 10 feet from power lines.

Cutting Down Trees

Cutting down a tree or even pruning limbs is a potentially dangerous task. Tree limbs that grow into power lines may be carrying an electrical current. In those cases, it’s best to consult a professional. Do not attempt to touch or trim trees that are closer than 10 feet to any power line. Contact Duquesne Light for assistance.

Landscaping

When planning any outdoor planting, be sure to consider the proper placement of trees and shrubs. If planting near a transformer, be sure to keep a distance of 10 feet from any side with an opening and three feet from other sides.

Water and Electricity

Be careful when using electricity near water. Water makes it easy for you to become an electrical path to the ground. Don't use power tools when the ground is wet or while standing in water.

Kite Flying Safety Tips

Kites should be flown in open fields, away from overhead power lines. If a kite becomes tangled in a power line or electrical equipment, let it go. In addition, take particular care to keep mylar kites and mylar helium balloons away from power lines.

Digging in Your Yard

Before you dig, remember to place a call at least three working days in advance to Pennsylvania One Call at 8-1-1. Visit www.paonecall.org for more information.

About Duquesne Light Company

Duquesne Light Company is a leader in the transmission and distribution of electric energy, offering superior customer service and reliability to more than a half a million customers in southwestern Pennsylvania.

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