



Outdoor Safety

Electricity is a safe and reliable energy source when used properly. Like any other source of energy, it can be hazardous if used without caution and care.

Overhead Power Lines

It is important to use extreme caution when near overhead power lines. Here are some helpful safety tips:

- If you see a downed power line, contact the BLP immediately at 616-846-6250. Do not touch the line or anything that is in contact with the line. Do not attempt to move the line. Keep others away.
- When using an aluminum ladder, check above you for power lines. Aluminum is an exceptionally good conductor of electricity. If you touch a power line with an aluminum ladder, you could be seriously injured or killed.
- When working on a roof, moving antennas, metal gutters or other long metal objects, ensure that they don't inadvertently contact a power line.
- Contact the BLP at 616-846-6250 to have any foreign objects removed from a power line (tree limb, kite, model airplane, etc.). Never climb a power pole or try to remove the object yourself.



Avoiding Transformers

- Keep away from transformers, which are generally green and mounted on concrete slabs, and are found where there are underground power lines.
- Never attempt to open the door of one of these transformers. If you find a door unlocked, call the BLP at 616-846-6250 immediately.

Electricity & Water

- Water makes it easier for you to become an electrical path to the ground. Always use caution when using electricity around water.
- Do not use power tools while the ground is wet or while standing in water.
- Do not touch an electrical appliance while in a pool, hot tub, bathtub or shower.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are weatherproofed and protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). This device is designed to protect you from electrical shock.

When an Accident Happens

- Call 911.
- Do not touch a victim who's in contact with a power line.

- Do not touch anything that's in contact with the victim.
- Do not attempt to move the power line.
- If a victim, who is NOT in contact with the power line, is not breathing or has no pulse, call 911. If you are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), begin immediately.