

June is National Safety Month



Summer months are a popular time for many families to take a vacation. If you plan on spending time away from your home yet this summer, remember to prepare it for your absence. With the proper preparations you can cut electrical costs and keep your home and electronics *safe* while you are away.

"We want people to enjoy their vacations and keep their homes as safe and efficient as possible when they are away," said David Walters, General Manager of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power.

The BLP offers tips to help you prepare your home for vacation:

- You will not use your computer, television, or toaster while you are away, but they will continue to use energy and waste money if you do not unplug them. This also protects your electronics if there is a power surge in your absence.
- Since you are not using water while on vacation, either adjust the water heater temperature to the lowest setting, or turn it off if you will be gone for more than three days.
- If you plan on leaving lights on to deter burglars, put the lights on a timer. You can save money by not having lights on constantly and make it appear that people are home by varying the times the lights are on.

Thank you to BLP Employees and the Board for helping us achieve the highest award you can receive through the Greater Ottawa County United Way. Second year in a row, the BLP & UWUA 582 is one of eight *2015 Community Builder Award recipients.*



Pictured is Renee Molyneux, Administrative Services Manager accepting the BLP's award at the Live United Celebration.



Created in 1896, the Board of Light & Power is one of more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serving homes and businesses across the United States. We are locally-controlled by a five-member Board of Directors elected by Grand Haven residents with approximately 13,500 customers in the greater Grand Haven area.

Your Board of Directors:

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PLUGGED IN is a publication of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power. Questions and comments may be submitted to our **Customer Service Department at:**

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LIVE UNITED

PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

May & June 2015



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**GRAND HAVEN
BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER**

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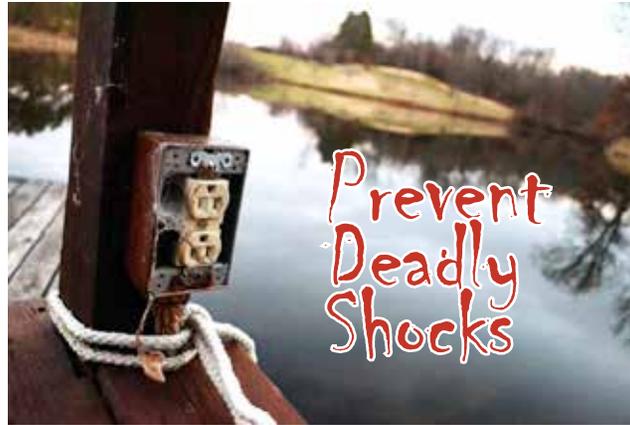
Boating Safety

For docks:

- All electrical work should be done by a **professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes**.
- Have a **ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breaker** installed on the circuit(s) feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to **connect all metal to the AC safety ground** at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. **Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes**.



What you need to know about **electrical safety** and docks!



If you own a boat:

Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year and whenever something is added to or removed from its system.

Home Cooling tips:



Hot temperatures are hard on people, pocketbooks, and our electrical systems. Increased demand for electricity during summer months strains a home's electrical system, increasing the likelihood of an electric shock or fire. By preparing your home, you can save money while still staying comfortable. *The BLP provides the following tips to help you save money on home cooling costs.*



Lightning Awareness Week

June 22-28, 2015

In 2013,

2,800 injuries

440 fatalities

were weather related

A rainy day can all too quickly turn into a disaster when thunder and lightning are present. The high level of voltage in lightning is not something with which to take chances. Knowing how to stay protected in a storm is key to preventing a tragedy and costly injuries. There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. **The best way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to stay inside and avoid interacting with any appliances, electrical outlets and wires, cables, phone lines, water, and piping.** Preparation is also important. Listen to, watch, or download weather forecasts so that you know if there is a chance of severe weather. If there is a chance, reschedule the activity or make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Safe shelters include fully enclosed buildings or a fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle.



1. Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.

2. Install and use ceiling fans. They circulate air and take heat from the body's surface to create a cooling effect.

3. Keep cool air in and hot air out. Avoid unnecessary trips out the door, and do not leave the door open.

4. Use a programmable thermostat, which allows you to automatically adjust your home's temperature based on your daily patterns. Set your thermostat to go higher while you are away and cooler for when you are back in the home.

