



SPRING INTO SAFETY

Talk to your kids about electrical hazards.

OVERHEAD POWER LINES



Point out overhead power lines and electrical equipment to your children and emphasize that they should never climb on or play near them.

CLIMBING ON TREES

Never climb on trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.



FLYING A KITE

Fly kites and model airplanes in **large open areas** like a park or an open field so you are far away from power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near a power line, don't climb up to get it. Contact the BLP at 616.846.6250 for assistance.



PAD MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS

Never play on pad mounted transformers. Pad mounted transformers are green metal boxes that contain the above ground portion of an underground electrical installation. These cabinets carry high voltages and are safe when locked, but they can be deadly if someone reaches inside. If you see one in your neighborhood that is open, call the BLP at 616.846.6250 to report it.



When you experience a power outage - report your outage by calling **616.846.6250** or by visiting **OMS - Your BLP Outage Management System at ghblp.org**

Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smart, Chairperson

Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson

Larry Kieft, Director

John Naser, Director

Jim VanderMolen, Director

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:

1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
p 616.846.6250 | f 616.846.3114

Emergency: 616.846.6250 | E-Mail: customerservice@ghblp.org



Earth Day Lakeshore Fair

SATURDAY - April 22, 2017

1pm - 4pm

**Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus, Grand Haven**

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is excited to host a booth at the 2017 Earth Day Lakeshore Fair. In honor of Earth Day we will be giving away over 500 deciduous trees on a first come - first serve basis. Included will be information on how to avoid tree and utility conflicts when selecting a planting area.



PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility

grand haven board of light & power



March & April 2017

Inside:

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**grand haven
board of light & power**

Providing quality local electric service since 1896

ghblp.org

Electrical Information for Residential Customers

Electric Meter Reading

Each month the electric meter at your residence is read by a Board of Light & Power meter reader to determine how much electricity has been used. Your assistance in providing access to the meter is requested.

If we are unable to read the meter due to severe weather, a locked gate, a dog, or overgrown shrubs or trees, we will estimate your bill based on past usage. If we are consistently unable to gain access to your meter, you may arrange to read the meter yourself.



Please call our Customer Account Representatives at 616.846.6250 to discuss any meter access problems and other options.

Residential Budget Payment Program

If you prefer to make equal monthly payments throughout the year for your electric usage, you may enroll in the Residential Budget Payment Program. The Board of Light & Power will review the electric usage at your residence and, based upon the usage history, will establish an appropriate monthly budget payment. Your account will be periodically reviewed and your monthly budget payment may be adjusted if necessary.



When you enroll in the Budget Payment Program your monthly bill will still show your actual electric usage for that month along with your actual account balance; however, the amount due will be the budget amount.

Our budget year begins with the May bill and ends with the settle-up bill in April. If you have used more electricity than what was budgeted, you will receive a settle-up bill. If you use less, you will receive a check for the overpayment. One year of BLP electric service is required to qualify for the Budget Program. To learn more, please contact our Customer Account Representatives at 616.846.6250.

Landlord Protection Program

The Board of Light & Power offers three Shutoff Protection options to landlords who own rental property in the BLP service territory.

READ: This option automatically transfers service to the landlord's name when a tenant contacts the Board of Light and Power to have service discontinued unless a new tenant is moving in at the same time.

ALL SHUT-OFFS: Landlords may elect to have service transferred to their name if the service is to be disconnected for any reason, including nonpayment.

SEAL: Service at the property is sealed when a tenant requests service to be discontinued, and remains off until the next tenant requests service or the landlord gives further instruction.

Please visit our website at ghblp.org or contact our Customer Account Representatives at 616.846.6250 to enroll.

Tree Trimming

The Board of Light & Power uses a qualified tree trimming crew to maintain clearance around its overhead distribution lines. Tree trimming on Board of Light & Power rights-of-way is ongoing throughout the year. If a trimming project involves the complete removal of a tree, the tree trimming crew will attempt to discuss the project with available property representatives prior to completing the project. If you see a potential problem with power lines becoming tangled in tree limbs, please call our Service Center at 616.846.6250 and a service worker will investigate and schedule any necessary trimming.

MISS DIG Program - Call Before You Dig Locating Underground Utilities

The Board of Light & Power coordinates with Miss Dig System, Inc. which is a one-call utility damage prevention center in Michigan. Before starting any extensive ground breaking project call Miss Dig at 1.800.482.7171 to request a free location of all of your underground utilities. Allow three working days for all utilities to be located and marked.



Please Excuse our dust...

The BLP Service Center is being remodeled beginning April 1, 2017. You can expect business as usual, as we upgrade our facility. Our Customer Account Representatives will be available on site to assist our customers.

Safety Reminders

If your lights are buzzing, sparking, or flickering, your home is sending you a message. Don't ignore the warning signs of a serious electrical problem. Shut the outlet or switch off at the circuit breaker, and contact an electrician to make repairs.

Downed Power Lines

If you see damaged electric lines on the ground, stay away. Report downed power lines to us immediately by calling 616.846.6250. If the telephone line is busy, call 911.

Ask for identification

Board of Light & Power employees always carry identification cards. If someone is claiming to represent the BLP, please ask to see proper identification. If you have questions or doubts about the visit, call us at 616.846.6250 right away.

