

Refresh Your Habits and Actions for **Electrical Safety Month**



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May is Electrical Safety Month and a good time to refresh our habits and actions to ensure we're safely using electricity every day.

GLE employees depend upon a thorough knowledge of safety practices especially when it

comes electrical safety. Personal protective equipment, like rubber gloves and flame-resistant clothing, are always worn on job sites. Our safety team works diligently to eliminate risks and create a more secure workplace. For the community, we host events within schools and for other groups to educate them on how to use electricity more responsibly.

It is still good for those of us who do not work directly with power lines to be

aware of the steps we can take to be safer with the electricity we use. Our lives are often centered around the ability to use electricity. Everyday items we don't give much thought to—the lights brightening our rooms, the power-strip running all the cords for our media devices, appliances we use within the home—are all powered by electricity. With this power also comes the responsibility to ensure our safety and the safety of those around us.

There are obvious ways we can avoid electrical safety hazards, such as keeping electronics away from water and not unplugging devices by pulling on the cord. There are other ways, though, that we can be more proactive to avoid risk. Below are some simple steps you can take to keep yourself and your loved ones safer with electricity.

- **Replace damaged electrical cords:** Regularly check cords for fraying or cracking and replace as needed. Never place cords under rugs or furniture, as this poses a potential for overheating and tripping.

- **Don't Overload Outlets or Power Strips:** Only one high-wattage appliance per outlet and remember that while power strips only give more outlets, not more power.
- **Protect Children and Pets:** Tidy up loose cords to avoid tripping, chewing, tugging. Be sure to cap outlets to keep tiny fingers and paws safe.
- **Double Check the Wattage:** Double check appliances, lamps, and fixtures to see what wattage they require. Not marked? A good rule of thumb is 60-watt bulbs or less in unmarked light fixtures and 25-watt for unmarked ceilings.
- **Stay Away From Power Lines:** Stay away from downed power lines. Be aware of overhead lines when using ladders, trimming trees, or working on roofs. And if you come across a downed power line, report it to us immediately.



Electrical Safety For Kids

Free electrical safety demonstrations are available to schools and youth groups within the Great Lakes Energy service area. Great Lakes Energy presenters will come to your classroom and give students a demonstration using a tabletop display.

The display features a working miniature power line. Students will see a vivid demonstration of electrical safety during the 30-40 minute presentation.

School presentations are for second to seventh grades. Our show dates calendar fills fast, so please reserve a time soon. Visit the Community section on gtlakes.com to fill out a safety demonstration request form.

Truestream Update

Exploration Begins in Boyne Service District



Great Lakes Energy(GLE) is exploring the possibility of expanding Truestream fiber internet and voice service to the Boyne service area! This includes rural parts of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego counties served by GLE with electricity. GLE members in the Boyne service area led the way in registering their interest on jointruestream.com, which was a driving factor in choosing this area next. We know there are still many homes and businesses without access to decent internet, let alone the high speeds of a fiber connection, which is why we're working hard to diligently plan building a network that will bring a revolutionary service to GLE members.

Contract crews will visit each GLE electric service location in the Boyne service area to collect meter and other location to assess network viability. Contractors will not need access inside member homes.

This preliminary engineering field work will take around 10 weeks to complete with plans for a second field study in the early fall. The data collected will help us understand the best way to move forward for members in our Boyne service area. If the findings are positive, we may budget for expansion of the fiber network in 2020, pending approval by the GLE board of directors in late 2019.

Construction Begins in Petoskey Service District

Construction has officially begun for the the Phase 1 area-Hayes, Resort, Petoskey East, and Petoskey West service areas. Free installation for those in Phase 1 is limited to those who register prior to construction and while construction is in progress, so be sure to sign up now at jointruestream.com. Free installation is a savings of \$149.

But we're also counting on you—our GLE members! You'll play a big role in how and where the Truestream network gets developed throughout our other service areas. We want to encourage everyone interested in fiber internet to register their interest on jointruestream.com. By voicing your desire to see fiber internet in your specific community, you help us understand where to build next..

As a local electric cooperative, and now fiber internet and voice service provider, our GLE members are at the heart of everything we do. Not only do we want to enrich the lives of our members, we also want to stimulate economic growth and increase home values, improving the local communities we're so proud to serve. We'll keep you updated, and thanks for being such great members of the GLE family.



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Looking Out for You

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