

Safety

is an everyday priority



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

It seems like every day there is another facet of our lives that can be automated. New devices and new technologies are regularly coming online that have the potential to make our lives easier.



The same is true at GLE where employees and members are reaping the benefits of everything from automated grid management to automatic bill payment.

While many of these technologies allow us to “set it and forget it,” there’s one facet of our increasingly electrified lives that should never be left on autopilot: **safety**.

May is Electrical Safety Month, but at GLE, safety is something we think about every day. In fact, number one on the list of our company’s seven guiding principles is **“Safety is paramount in our work.”**

While our lineworkers are highly trained and use special equipment to reduce the hazards they face working around energized power lines, electrical safety is something we all must take seriously. Electricity powers nearly every facet of our lives – from our morning coffee to the last light we turn off at night. Even with all the benefits electricity brings us, we still must respect the potential hazards it presents if we don’t take the proper precautions.

Downed power lines are some of the most dangerous situations for our crews and the community. Never go near a downed power line. You should always assume that a downed power line is still live and stay at least 35 feet away from it or anything the line might be touching.

There’s another important safety concern related to power outages: **generator safety**. If you have a generator that is directly connected to your home’s electrical system, it is very important that your home is equipped with a transfer switch and that you use it whenever your generator is operating. These switches isolate your home from the electrical distribution system which not only protects lineworkers and others outside your home, but it also prevents your home’s electrical systems from potential damage if power from GLE is restored while your generator is still operating.

In addition to power outages, there are everyday electrical hazards to watch out for around the home:

- ▶ Always call MISS DIGG by dialing 8-1-1 to have underground utilities marked before doing any digging in your yard.
- ▶ The National Fire Protection Association estimates about 32,000 house fires are started by electrical systems and equipment each year. But there are many steps you can take to reduce these risks. For more electrical safety tips, visit: www.gtlakes.com/safety-checklist.

With a little care, we can all enjoy the many benefits electricity brings us without convenience turning into catastrophe.

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Getting the most from your online account

From Auto Pay and Budget Billing to outage reporting and enrollment in the People Fund, your GLE online account is a convenient resource available to all Great Lakes Energy members.



MONITOR USAGE

The My Usage section provides tools to analyze your past and current usage, as well as plan and conserve in the future.

Compare your use and costs, set markers to monitor changes in your usage over periods of time, and get energy saving tips.



AUTO PAY

Enjoy the convenience of having your bill automatically paid each month from your bank account or card when you enroll in Auto Pay. With Auto Pay, you no longer have to worry about due dates, late fees, or paper bills since your payment is automatically deducted from your account each month.



BUDGET BILLING

Because lifestyle changes and extreme seasonal temperatures can affect your monthly bill, signing up for Budget Billing allows you to pay an average amount per month instead of paying for high usage amounts in one season and lower usage amounts in another season. Your budget plan balance will be shown on your bill each month.



ALERTS

Perhaps one of the best options for “staying in the know” with your energy use is setting up high and low usage alerts. During cold weather, if your electrical usage suddenly spikes above typical levels, it could mean there is a substantial heat loss happening somewhere causing heating equipment to work overtime. With the proper alerts in place, you will be informed of any abnormal usage that strays from the settings that YOU define.

▶ **To get started, click the ‘LOG IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT’ button at gtlakes.com**



To learn more about setting up alerts, scan the QR code or visit www.gtlakes.com/usage-alerts/



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