

Get connected to electrical safety



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

Whether it's reliable electric service or life-changing high-speed internet, keeping you - our members - connected is at the core of what we do at Great Lakes Energy. As an extension of these efforts, we also work hard to keep our members connected to important information about their service, their accounts, the many programs GLE offers, and critical safety tips.

Since May is Electrical Safety Month, it's the perfect time for us to talk about **Safety**.

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 it's especially important for our lineworkers, who are highly trained and use special equipment to reduce the hazards they face working near energized power lines, electrical safety is something we all must take seriously. Along with the many benefits electricity brings to our daily lives, we must also 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 also it prevents your home's electrical systems from potential damage if power from GLE is restored while your generator is still operating.

I would also like to encourage you to take advantage of our new outage notification system which will let you know through emails or text messages that we are aware of an outage affecting your service, when a crew is on-site to begin restoration work, and when the outage has been restored. These notifications will keep you updated on the status of outage restoration efforts from the safety of your home.



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If you see our crews performing outage restoration work, please do not approach them or try to engage in conversations with them. These line crews are doing very dangerous work and the sites may contain life-threatening hazards. Although it's natural to be curious about restoration efforts taking place in your area, for your safety and for theirs, please stay away during these times.

I'd also encourage you to check out the electrical safety checklist on the next page, which can help you avoid everyday electrical hazards.

With a little care, we can all safely enjoy the many benefits electricity brings us.

Electric Safety Checklist



Use a smart plug or power strip to turn off power when devices are not in use.



Surge protectors offer protection from damaging power surges that can damage electrical equipment.



Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets. If you need to use an extension cord for a long period of time, consider having an electrician install a new outlet where needed.



In households with young children, use safety caps for all unused outlets.



Never use electrical equipment near water, and unplug small kitchen and bathroom appliances when not in use.



Make sure all outdoor outlets and those in bathrooms, kitchens, and other locations where moisture may be nearby are ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.



Always place lamps on a level surface and away from items that can burn.



Be aware of outlets or switches that feel warm. If you notice this or you are having recurring problems with blowing fuses, tripped circuit breakers, or flickering lights, call an electrician for help.



Do not overload outlets or power strips.



Watch out for electrical cords that are damaged, and make sure they aren't pinched by furniture, windows, or doors.



Be sure to sign up for outage notifications so you can be prepared and safe when an outage happens.



Do not approach or interact with our lineworkers while they are engaged in outage restoration work.



Planning to use a generator?
Be sure to check out our Generator Essentials video for setup and safety considerations!



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