



## Electrical safety: a year-round commitment



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President &  
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As May arrives, we can all take a deep breath of warmer spring air as winter weather, and the challenges it brings, are behind us. As the leaves and flowers begin to bloom, the changing season also brings a new set of weather-related considerations for our infrastructure and crews.

While the hazards Mother Nature may throw at us change with the seasons, one thing remains constant year-round: our shared commitment to safety. That's why May, which is Electrical Safety Month, is an ideal opportunity to focus on how each of us can help keep ourselves and others safe.



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At Great Lakes Energy, "Safety is paramount in our work" tops the list of our seven guiding principles. While it's especially critical for our lineworkers, who are highly trained and use special equipment to manage the dangers they face working near energized power lines, electrical safety is a responsibility we all share.



### STAY SAFE: DOWNED POWER LINES

One of the most dangerous situations for both our crews and our communities is a downed power line. That's why we regularly remind everyone never to go near one. Always assume a downed power line is energized and stay at least 35 feet away from it or anything the line might be touching.

If you see our crews in the field performing outage restoration work, please do not approach or engage them while they are working. Lineworkers are often operating in environments where serious, life-threatening hazards may be present, and minimizing distractions helps keep everyone safe.



### STAY SAFE: GENERATORS

Many of you rely on generators to keep essential equipment running during power outages. If you have a generator that is directly connected to your home's electrical system, it is critical that your home is equipped with a transfer switch and that you use it whenever your generator is operating. Transfer switches isolate your home from the electrical distribution system, helping protect lineworkers and others outside your home from possible electric shock. They also prevent potential damage to your home's electrical systems if GLE power is restored while your generator is still running.

If you use a portable generator, never operate it indoors—including in a basement or garage—or within 20 feet of an exterior window or door. This helps prevent exposure to dangerous carbon monoxide emissions.



Electrical safety extends well beyond storms and downed power lines. There are everyday risks in our homes and workplaces that require ongoing awareness. The **electrical safety checklist** on the next page offers practical tips to help you reduce common risks and stay safe.

**By staying aware, taking simple precautions, and making safety a shared priority, we can help ensure our families, our communities, and GLE crews remain safe—no matter the season.**



# Electric safety checklist



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



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



Surge protectors offer protection from 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 (GFCI) 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.



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