

# VFW Pelican Post 1383

## Electrical Safety Topic

12 June 2014

### 1. Power lines can be deadly – what you know could save your life:

For your safety, Pacific Power keeps power lines high up in the air and buried beneath the ground, away from you. There are safety precautions you too should take to prevent serious or fatal injuries from electrical accidents. Please read the safety tips below and share this important information with your family.

### 2. Keep Your Distance:

Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations require professionals operating cranes or derricks to keep themselves and any of their tools **at least 20 feet away from overhead power lines**. This means the average person should stay much farther away. Electricity will take the easiest path to ground, even thru you. If you or an object you are holding accidentally become part of the pathway, you could be electrocuted.

### 3. Indoor Safety:

- Keep appliances away from water and always make sure your hands are dry when using them.
- Make sure outlets near water sources have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to shut off power in time to prevent serious injury. GFCIs should be used in bathrooms, garages, near kitchen sinks and outdoors. If your outlet has red and black "test" and "reset" buttons, it has a GFCI.
- Repair or replace an appliance if the cord is frayed.
- Childproof outlets.
- Never exceed the extension cords' load rating.
- Use three-pronged plugs only in three-pronged outlets. Never remove a prong from three-pronged plugs.

### 4. Outdoor Safety:

- Pay attention to the location of all overhead power lines. Make sure to check for power lines in or near trees before pruning branches. Don't use pruning tools or ladders near power lines. **FOLLOW THE 10-FOOT RULE!** Always keep yourself and anything you're handling at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Never try

to remove a branch that is tangled or lying across a power line. Instead, call us at 1-888-221-7070 – we'll be happy to remove it for you.

- Remember to "**call before you dig**" when putting in fence posts, planting trees, installing sprinkler systems or excavating for new construction. Contacting underground power lines can be dangerous. Call **811** at least 48 hours before you dig to have lines marked for free.
- Use electric power tools only in dry weather.
- Never sit on, play on, dig near or pry open pad-mounted transformers (four-foot-tall, green, metal boxes most often found in neighborhoods and parks). If you find one that has been unlocked or damaged, call us immediately at 1-888-221-7070.
- Do not spray water on power lines, equipment or structures. A stream of water hitting a power line can create a path for electricity.

5. **Conclusion:** Electrical safety hazards are lurking inside and outside your home. To learn more about how to stay safe around electricity, go to [www.pacificpower.net](http://www.pacificpower.net).