

Coastlines

News and information for Customers of Central Lincoln People's Utility District



May 2009

Work Carefully Overhead, And Underground Too!

“If you do uncover an underground cable, don't try to move it!”

As we look forward to the change in seasons, many people are getting started with spring planting and getting their homes and yards in shape for summer.

That work may include projects like planting flowers and shrubs, trimming trees, painting your house, fixing the roof, and a multitude of other chores.

If your projects include tree-trimming activities, be sure that no electrical lines are in contact with, or likely to come in contact with, the trees you're working on. Tree branches can be very good conductors of electricity. It's very easy for a tree branch to get away from you and fall into a power line, causing power outages or serious injury.

The same cautions hold true if you're using a ladder for one of your projects. Be very careful when carrying and placing the ladder that it's not going to come into contact with any overhead power lines. Ladders also have a tendency to slide along the roof edge if one leg sinks into softer ground, so keep this in mind when placing your ladder.

And if you're mounting a television antenna or satellite dish on your roof, be extra careful. These pieces of equipment can be awkward to handle. It's very easy to lose track of where the far end of an antenna is when you've got your hands full trying to attach the near end to your roof.

If any of those planned projects call for digging, we'd like to offer a few extra words of caution.

Please remember that electric utility cables may be buried beneath your property. Also keep in mind that previous owners of your property may have buried electrical lines to supply electricity for shops, hot tubs, outdoor lighting or other outbuildings. Underground electrical cables are live and dangerous, so it's obviously a good idea to know if there are cables in the area where you plan to plow, trench, dig or blast.

In addition to electrical cables, there are many other types of utility equipment that are routinely buried underground. Telephone lines, cable television lines, gas lines and water distribution pipes are among the most common.

Most utilities in our area belong to a toll-free one-call service that can tell you if anything is buried in your area. The number is **811**. *(NOTE: A few local water districts do not belong to this service, so you may need to give them a call, too.)*

If you uncover an underground electrical cable, don't try to move it or work around it! Call your local Central Lincoln PUD office immediately for assistance. ■



Check Your Outdoor Electrical Service Equipment

“Maintenance of your outdoor electrical equipment is critical.”

It's important to periodically check the condition of your outdoor electric equipment. It could cause serious problems for you if it's in shaky condition.

This equipment can wear out over time, become damaged by tree limbs, ladders, etc., or corrode due to our harsh coastal climate.

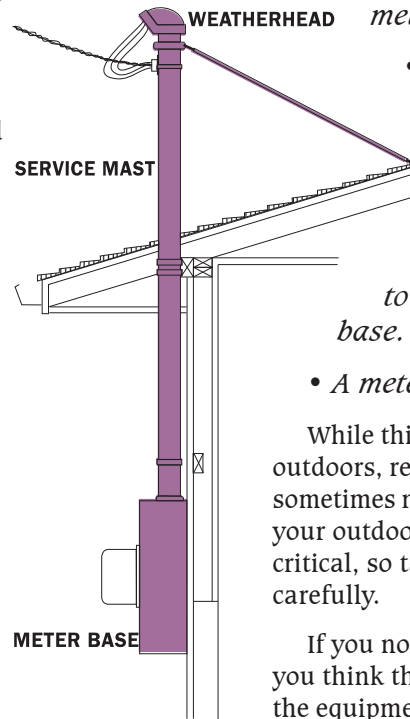
The equipment you should check includes the meter base, the service mast and the weatherhead. *(Customers whose homes are served by underground lines will not have a weatherhead or service mast, but will have the meter base.)*

In the diagram at right, the colored area shows you which equipment belongs to you, not Central Lincoln, and is yours to maintain.

Checking your electrical service equipment is very easy. Just walk over to your

electric meter and look for the following:

- *Advanced rust or corrosion on any metal assembly.*
- *A service mast that's bent or pulled away from the house.*
- *A missing or severely rusted weatherhead that might allow water to collect in the meter base.*
- *A meter base with a hole in it.*



While this equipment is built for the outdoors, repair and replacement are sometimes necessary. Maintenance of your outdoor electrical equipment is critical, so take the time to look it over carefully.

If you notice any of these signs, or if you think there may be a problem with the equipment, contact your local Central Lincoln office, or a licensed electrician for assistance.



Give them a brake!

This is the time of year when work crews are out in full force, repairing the damages of another winter season. Our crews are out there trimming trees, replacing poles and power lines, and building new transmission and distribution lines. Please use extra caution when

driving in work areas.

In addition to our crews, there are Department of Transportation crews, and various city and county crews doing work on roadways, water and sewer systems, and a lot

of other roadside projects. Please follow these simple safety tips:

- *Pay attention. Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and equipment are working near the road.*
- *Minimize distractions, such as cell phone use.*
- *Keep consistent with traffic flow.*
- *Keep a safe distance from cars ahead, traffic barriers, construction equipment and workers.*

If you see one of our vehicles in or near the roadway while our people perform their jobs, please give them a brake!

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