



# ELECTRICAL SAFETY

AT HOME AND AT WORK



Alabama  
Power

Electricity is an important part of our lives. In fact, we're around it so much that we may forget it's a powerful force that must be treated with respect; otherwise it can lead to serious injury or worse.

## ON-THE-JOB SAFETY TIPS

Whether you're at work or just doing a few chores at home, follow these guidelines to help keep you safe.



- ▶ Know where power lines are located, especially overhead lines, so you can avoid them.
- ▶ Always carry a ladder horizontally. Before setting it up, check to see if power lines are located overhead or nearby.
- ▶ A fiberglass ladder is best when working around electricity.
- ▶ Anything can conduct electricity. Even a wooden ladder can soak up water and be dangerous.
- ▶ Wear rubber gloves and sturdy, rubber-soled shoes when working with electrical equipment outdoors. Water and electricity do not mix.



- ▶ Never use electrical equipment in wet conditions.
- ▶ Any object you're holding that touches a power line will create a path to ground.



### When using electrical tools, make sure:

- ▶ The tool is plugged into a GFCI outlet, especially if you're working in a wet or damp location.
- ▶ Your hands and clothes are dry.
- ▶ You are not touching a metal object.
- ▶ It is not storming or about to storm.

## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Contact 811 before you begin any digging project. This free service will help to keep you safe by marking the location of buried utilities. No matter how big or small the job is, or even if you've called for a similar job in the past, you should always contact 811 before you dig. Your safety is much too important to skip this step. Dial 811 or visit us online at [www.al811.com](http://www.al811.com) to learn more.





More than half of all electrocutions in the U.S. are caused by contact with overhead power lines. These fatalities can occur when a worker accidentally touches powerlines with a ladder, scaffolding, crane or other equipment or materials. Always be aware of overhead lines.

## GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI)

A GFCI is a type of electrical outlet or circuit breaker that protects against electrical hazards in damp or wet locations, such as kitchens and bathrooms. You can recognize a GFCI outlet by the presence of the "test" and "reset" buttons on the faceplate. GFCIs compare the electrical current going to and from a load and immediately trip if there is a slight difference in those currents, protecting you from a potential shock. GFCIs should be checked for functionality on a periodic basis using the "test" and "reset" buttons.

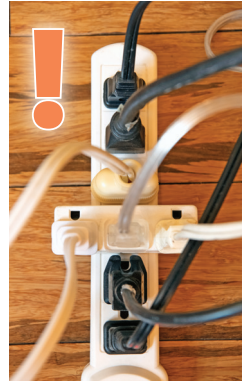
### Test GFCI outlets every month:

1. Plug a lamp into a GFCI outlet and turn the lamp on.
2. Push the "test" button on the outlet; the lamp should turn off immediately.
3. If the lamp does not turn off, the GFCI may be faulty and should be replaced by a certified electrician.



## HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME?

Never overload electrical outlets. Wires and other components in an electrical circuit have maximum amounts of electricity they can carry safely. If too many devices are plugged into an outlet, the electrical current can heat the wires and cause a fire. The wiring of a home or other structure is the responsibility of the owner; and with the right amount of voltage, anything can conduct electricity.



- ▶ Do you regularly inspect cords to make sure they work properly?
- ▶ Do you replace any worn or damaged cords?
- ▶ Do you pull from the plug and not the cord?



## KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Cover all outlets that may be accessible to children. If there are any loose wires, broken outlet plates or other outlet-related problems in your home, have a certified electrician fix them.



Electricity will always find the quickest and easiest path to ground. If you provide a path to ground for electricity, you can be seriously hurt or even killed. Electricity is fast. It travels at the speed of light - more than 186,000 miles per second - so that leaves no room for mistakes.

## TEACH YOUR KIDS ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Tell your kids to not climb trees or fly kites or balloons near power lines. They should know that cords and electrical outlets are not toys and should be left alone. Never let children play near a substation, swing, climb or run into them.



Show them the warning signs posted on and around the substation. Explain to children that these signs mean “Danger” and “Stay Away” because there’s electricity inside.

Teach children to stay away from electrical equipment, such as the guy wire (right) and pad-mounted transformer box (below). If you notice a transformer unlocked and/or damaged or see a down wire, be sure to notify us immediately at 1-800-245-2244.



At Alabama Power, nothing is more important than safety. We want everyone to be safe—our customers, our neighbors, our employees and, especially, children. Take advantage of our free programs and initiatives aimed at kids, like Safe-T-Opolis and Electric Academy.



Visit [www.alabamapower.com/safety](http://www.alabamapower.com/safety) to learn more.



*We are committed to  
making our communities  
a safer place for all of us  
to live and work.*



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## In Case of Emergency

What should I do if someone is shocked or burned?

- ▶ Stay calm and think before you act.
- ▶ Do NOT touch the victim if they are still in contact with the electrical circuit. Electricity will travel from their body into yours.
- ▶ Call 911 immediately and be sure to tell the dispatcher it's an electrical emergency. Stay with the victim until medical help arrives.

## Quick Contacts

- ▶ If someone is in contact with an electrical circuit, call 911 immediately.
- ▶ To report a down line or unsafe electrical condition, call 1-800-888-2726.
- ▶ If you are performing work in close proximity to power lines, call us to have the service temporarily disconnected to ensure you can perform your work safely. To make an appointment, call 1-800-245-2244.
- ▶ To request where utility lines are located before digging, call 811.
- ▶ To learn more about free resources for kids, visit [www.alabamapower.com/safety](http://www.alabamapower.com/safety).
- ▶ To request free materials, including a safety program, email [safety@alabamapower.com](mailto:safety@alabamapower.com) or call 1-800-706-SAFE (7233).