

Avoiding electric precautions can be shocking

Pacific Power wants to remind people of the importance of keeping safe around electricity and electrical equipment.

It could mean the difference between life and death.

“Safety is our top priority, and the safety of the public we serve is especially critical,” said Amy Eschete, Pacific Power’s public safety manager.

“It’s a simple fact that electricity can be dangerous, even deadly, and we want people to take a few simple precautions to avoid serious or fatal injury,” she said.

Pacific Power recommends heeding the following key outdoor electric safety rules:

Look Up and Live: Pay attention to the location of all overhead power lines. Make sure to check for power lines in or near trees before pruning branches or climbing in or around trees.

Phone Pacific Power to prune trees near power lines. Most overhead lines are not insulated, and special care must be taken any time you’re around them.

Avoid storing or lifting tall or long items such as gutters, irrigation pipes, lad-

ders and antennae near overhead power lines. Keep the 10-foot rule in mind -- always keep yourself and anything you’re handling at least 10 feet or more away from overhead power lines and even farther away from any transmission lines.

Fly kites and model planes away from power lines.

Phone Before You Dig: Before embarking on any digging projects such as putting in fence posts, planting trees or bushes, installing a sprinkler system or doing major excavation work, be sure to call to have your underground utility lines located.

Make the call to the underground utility-locating service in your area at least 48 hours before you plan to dig. Contact Pacific Power or visit pacificpower.net for the phone number to the free utility-locating service in your area.

Having utility lines located before you dig prevents injury from contacting electrical power or natural gas lines and helps homeowners and workers avoid expensive repair costs and inconvenience caused by

damaged utility lines

Stay Away to Stay Safe: If you spot an electrical wire down, keep everyone out of the area and immediately contact 911 or Pacific Power at (888) 221-7070.

Never try to move or go near a downed wire and always assume a downed wire is dangerous and that the power line is energized. Touching a live line or anything near it like a fence, puddle or even the ground can cause high-voltage electricity to flow through your body, instantly resulting in life-altering, serious injuries or death.

Pacific also reminds the public about important indoor electric safety rules:

*Use outlet plug covers if you have small children in the house.

*Before repairing any appliance, unplug it.

*Use extension cords wisely. Never exceed the load rating; always throw away damaged cords; and don’t use extension cords as a replacement for permanent wiring.

*Use three-pronged grounded plugs only in three-prong outlets and never cut off the third prong.

*Never use electrical appliances near water.

*Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) outlets with red-and-black test and reset buttons in bathrooms, garages, near kitchen sinks and outdoors, as they will shut off power during a short circuit or grounding event.

*When performing electrical do-it-yourself projects around the home, always turn off circuit breakers and then test circuits to make sure they are de-energized before performing any work. Professional electricians can help make sure large projects are performed according to electrical codes for your home.

*Don’t overload electrical circuits. This is a common cause of fires.

*Attach extension cords to appliances before plugging into outlets. Always disconnect by pulling on the plug, not the cord.

“However,” Eschete said, “if safety rules are not followed, the results can be tragic.”

For more information, phone (888) 221-7070 or visit pacificpower.net and click on Safety.

Senate bill targets criminal side of state meth problem

Passage of SB 907, the second part of bipartisan package developed to deal with the methamphetamine crisis in Oregon, was announced by the House Majority Leader Wayne Scott (R-Canby).

The House recently passed the companion bill, HB 2485.

SB 907 focuses more on the criminal side of the meth problem with enhanced penalties for meth cooks; for those selling the drug; and for those who expose children to this dangerous substance. Specifically, SB 907 includes:

*Modifications of child abuse reporting statutes.

*A greater in-custody recovery program with a post-release component.

*Additions to the Dept. of Justice district attorney assistance program.

*Redistribution of drug statutes for statistical purposes.

*Modifications of existing crimes.

*Enhanced sentencing for high-volume manufacturing and dealers.

“Tougher sentences and increased penalties for meth are one part of what our state needs to do to tackle the meth epidemic,” said Scott. “Neglected and abused children are a devastating side effect of the meth problem.

“By punishing the people who expose kids to this horrible drug, we can hopefully discourage cooks and users from exposing their kids to the risks associated with meth.”

“After months of hard work, we passed the final piece of the Legislative Meth Package,” said Rep. Wayne Krieger (R-Gold Beach), carrier of the bill and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

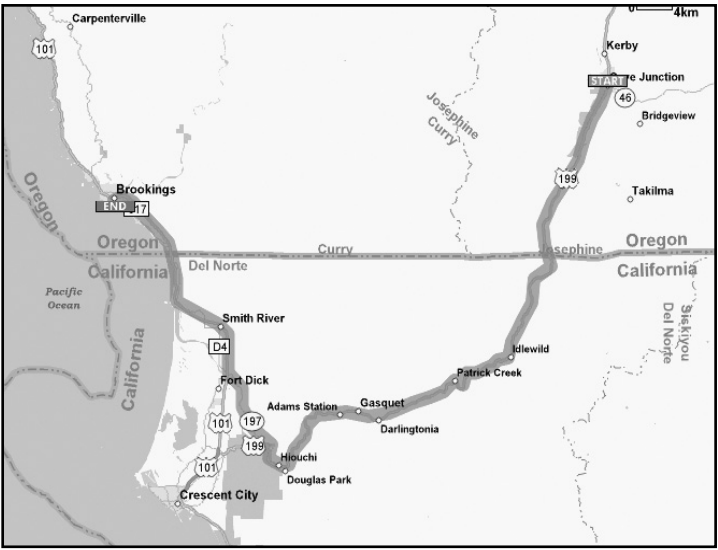
“I’m proud of this package and the hard work our bipartisan group put into this legislation,” he said.

“But the work doesn’t stop here. We have to monitor this epidemic, see how these changes impact the problem, and be prepared to make any changes in the future that we need to make.”



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