



Cuivre River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Keep electric safety in mind while planting

Cuivre River Electric Cooperative reminds area farmers to be aware of the dangers of electricity while working in their fields this spring. Cuivre River Safety Coordinator Doug Bagby stresses, “Play it safe with electricity. Accidents involving power lines usually happen when someone doesn’t take the time to look up and observe the whole situation.”

Cuivre River offers these important safety reminders to help prevent accidents and injuries during the planting season:

- Remember to lower portable equipment to its lowest possible level before moving. Also use care in raising the equipment when ready for use.
- Use a spotter to keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines when moving large equipment or high loads. Missouri law requires you to notify your electric utility before you begin any work within 10 feet of a power line.
- Steer clear of guy wire anchors that provide stability to utility poles. Powerful equipment that accidentally snags a guy wire can break a pole and bring high voltage electric lines to the ground.
- If your operation requires temporary employees during the busy planting season, make sure they are aware of potential dangers of overhead power lines.
- Be sure everyone knows what to do in case of emergency. Keep emergency numbers posted near the telephone and with a written set of directions to your site to eliminate confusion.
- If your farm equipment gets hung up on an overhead power line, stay put unless there is immediate danger, such as a fire. If you touch the ground and equipment at the same time you try to step away, your body could complete the circuit for electricity to reach the ground, resulting in severe injury, or even death.

Cuivre River offers the free booklet “Farm Safely with Electricity” at its offices in Troy and Lake Saint Louis. Or you may request a copy by contacting Bagby at 636-528-8261, 636-695-4700, or 800-392-3709, extension 232.

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