



### In The Case Of An Accident

If a person has been shocked, do not touch them or attempt to move them. Turn off the main source of power and call 911. Be **positive** that the victim is no longer in contact with the source of power **before** touching them. If the victim is not breathing or their heart has stopped, begin rescue breathing or CPR.



It's a free service to notify SC811 of your planned excavation to help prevent damages that may result in fines, utility service interruption and injury – even death.

### Report Power Outages:

**1-888-253-4BEC**

*If you have any concerns about electrical safety, please call Berkeley Electric at:*

MONCK'S CORNER: 761-8200, 825-3383 or 572-5454  
JOHNS ISLAND: 559-2458      GOOSE CREEK: 553-5020  
AWENDAW: 884-7525      Email: [info@bec.coop](mailto:info@bec.coop)

[www.berkeleyelectric.coop](http://www.berkeleyelectric.coop)

Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer


### Your Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer information on the following programs and services:

- Bank Draft
- Co-op Connections Member Benefit Card
- Duel Fuel Rebates
- Energy Advance Loans
- Fixed Budget & Levelized Billing Options
- Geothermal Heating & Cooling Rebates
- HomeAdvantage 5% Loans
- Pre-paid Metering
- On-line Bill Payment
- On-line & In-home Energy Audits
- Outdoor Lighting
- Propane Fuel & Products
- Renewable Energy
- Surge Protection
- Walmart Bill Payment Option
- Water Heater Warranty & Repair
- Water Heater Rebates

*Call your local Berkeley Electric Cooperative office and ask to speak with a customer service representative for additional information on these programs or visit our website [www.berkeleyelectric.coop](http://www.berkeleyelectric.coop).*



**Berkeley Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*The Touchstone Energy® symbol is your assurance that we're a community-minded cooperative providing high standards of service to customers large and small.*




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# Everyday Safety

*Enjoy electricity the safe way.*



**Berkeley Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

*We depend on electricity, a powerful force in all of our lives. It makes so many things possible and is ever present in our homes, at work and at play, that we often take it for granted. Because it is so powerful, it is important that we use electricity safely. We remind you to take these steps to avoid accidents and injury.*

### Don't Overload Wiring Or Outlets!

In recent years, the average American household has doubled its use of electricity. Because some older homes were not built to handle the increased electrical load, it is important for homeowners to periodically check their wiring to determine whether it can safely carry the increased load. Signs of overloaded wiring include:

- Frequently blown fuses
- Tripped breaker switches
- Appliances heat up too slowly

Individual electrical outlets are designed to carry a limited amount of electricity, so remember:

- Plugging too many electrical devices into one outlet can cause a fire by overloading the outlet.
- Surge protectors with several items plugged into all the multiple outlets may contribute to an overloaded outlet.
- Safety devices, such as fuse boxes and circuit breakers, help protect you by providing a warning of overloading. They cannot always protect you, however.

***If you think your wiring needs updating, deal only with licensed, reputable electrical contractors!***

### Be Careful With Cords, Plugs, And Equipment

Attention to small things can prevent big problems later. Some simple safety practices:

- Grasp the plug, not the cord, when unplugging.
- Always replace a blown fuse with the same size fuse.
- Replace any broken or missing wall plates.
- Put safety covers on unused outlets that are within reach of children.
- Keep power cords clean to prevent the insulation from deteriorating.
- Don't use extension cords as permanent household wiring.
- Rely on Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certified equipment.

Check for the following danger signs or hazards:

- Frayed wires
- Cracked or damaged insulation
- Three-pronged (grounded) plugs altered to fit two-pronged outlets or extension cords
- Power tools and lawn accessories plugged in when not in use
- Warm electrical cords or light switches
- Loose electrical outlet receptacles
- Any feeling of electrical shock when touching appliances, however slight it may be

***When using electricity outdoors, use only three-conductor grounded power cords and plugs designed for outdoor use and connected to a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) breaker.***

### Protect Your Electronic Appliances

Power surges, caused by interruptions or changes in the flow of electricity, can seriously damage your valuable electronic equipment. Of course, a surge protector is no match for a direct strike from lightning, but it can protect your equipment from most indirect lightning and damage from small surges. We make Surge Guard® surge protectors available to help protect your equipment from hundreds of dollars in damage.



### Have Respect For Power Lines

Be extremely careful to avoid working within 10 feet of power lines. Do NOT attempt to cut trees off of power lines. This is a task for trained professionals.

Keep all items at least 10 feet below overhead power lines:

- Ladders
- Antennas
- Boat antennas, sail masts or fishing poles
- Pool-cleaning equipment
- Kites

And remember these life-saving tips:

- Always call a professional to trim trees near power lines.
- If a power line falls or sags, **stay away from it. Immediately inform the Cooperative.**
- If your power lines are underground, do not begin digging anywhere on your property without calling South Carolina 811 by dialing 811 to help prevent damages that can result in fines, utility service interruption and physical injury – even death.
- Please don't attach signs or notices to power poles because nails and staples are dangerous for line workers who must climb the poles to repair equipment.
- Do not plant trees or shrubbery or put any obstructions within 10 feet of green transformer boxes or beneath overhead lines.

### Water + Electricity = Danger

Avoid contact between electricity and water.

- If an appliance falls in the water, do **not** touch it. UNPLUG IT. Even appliances that are turned off can shock you.
- Keep appliances with cords away from sinks and bathtubs.
- If you have a swimming pool, make sure that no overhead wiring passes over the pool and is safely routed away from the pool area.
- When boating, launch your boat before raising the sail. Know the clearance heights of power lines crossing lakes. Always look for power lines around boat landings and lake crossings.
- If an outlet is located near water, it should be a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlet. All outdoor outlets should be GFCIs.