

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

We recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but it's important to practice safety year-round. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted due to electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

That's why you'll see Union Power hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. In addition, we caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

- **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.
- **Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity.** Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.
- **Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.** Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.
- **Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard.

Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

- **Talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity.** Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Contact us at 704-289-3145 for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or an upcoming community event.



STORM READY



Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

While we do our best to avoid them, power outages occasionally happen. So, when the power goes out, how do Union Power crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all begins with a safe and efficient plan for power restoration.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Union Power keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers, and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field, simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Union Power crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to

managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines, and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

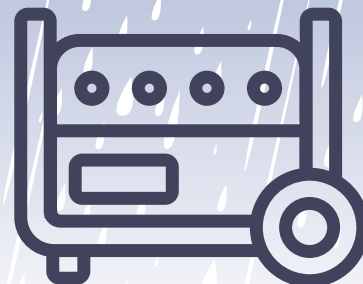
If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our outage-reporting number at 1-800-794-4423. Also, keeping your phone number updated in our system enables Union Power to locate your outage more quickly.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, always have a backup plan in place, which could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies, or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use. Refer to our Generator Guide on page C.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Union Power, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. We are Storm Ready!

A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

Recreational Inverter

Up to 2,000 watts

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

Midsized Inverter

Up to 3,500 watts

Weights up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Portable Generators and Large Inverters

Up to 7,500 watts

Weights about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Home Standby

Up to 20,000 watts

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community. **Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.**
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: Consumer Reports



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Even in the summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered. Source: energystar.gov

Comparing Watts to Lumens

When shopping for lightbulbs, compare lumens to ensure you're getting the amount of light or level of brightness you want. Today's Lighting Facts Label will make it easy to compare bulb brightness, color, life, and estimated annual operating cost.

Look for Lumens, Not Watts

Lumens and watts are different, making it harder to figure out what type of bulb to buy. For decades, consumers have bought incandescent lights based on watts, which indicates the bulb's brightness. The more watts, the brighter the bulb.

The rules have changed. An LED that uses 60 watts is not comparable to an incandescent bulb that uses 60 watts because LEDs are designed to use less energy and naturally have a lower watt rating. This means it's useless to use watts to determine brightness.

What's a Lumen?

Lumens measure how much light you are getting from a bulb; the higher the lumen, the brighter the light. Therefore, lumens provide a more accurate indication of the amount of light the bulb will produce.

The brightness or lumen levels of lights in your home may vary widely. If you want something dimmer, go for fewer lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens. Here's a rule of thumb when replacing bulbs:

- Replace a 100-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 1,600 lumens
- Replace a 75-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 1,100 lumens
- Replace a 60-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 800 lumens
- Replace a 40-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 450 lumens

The Lighting Facts Label

The label provides the lumens (lm) — or brightness — of the bulb, estimated operating cost for the

year, and the color of the light (from warm/yellowish to white to cool/blue). Review the comparison chart below for more information.





Lighting Calculator

Most people know that changing over to LED lights makes it more energy efficient to light up a home. However, in some cases, it has been reported that the cost of changing to LED is too high, which may have prevented some people from making the switch.

- LED bulbs use only a fraction of the electricity consumed compared to traditional incandescent bulbs. In addition, they are cheaper to run than fluorescent lighting; and they can last up to 50 times longer.
- Our Lighting Savings Calculator can help you make smart decisions when choosing lighting for your home by comparing the savings potential of using energy-efficient bulbs vs. regular incandescent bulbs. This is based on the wattage, the number of bulbs, and hours used per day.

Visit union-power.com/energysavingscalculators to access our Lighting Calculator and discover your home's energy and savings potential today!



Right-of-Way Clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood: ABC Professional Tree Services, Lewis Tree Service, Lucas Tree Experts, and Xylem Inc.

Mecklenburg County: Campus Ridge Rd, Castlebridge Ln, CPCC Ln, Creekside Dr, Davis Trace Dr, Four Oaks Ln, Hackamore Dr, Holcroft Ct, Honeysuckle Ridge Dr, Horseback Circle, Idle Dr, Idlefield Ln, Idlewild Rd, Independence Commerce Dr, Johnson Ln, Lexington Pointe Pl, Matthews Indian Trail Rd, Mills End Circle, Mt Harmony Church Rd, Mt Harmony Rd, Northern Red Oak Dr, Phillips Rd, Springwater Dr, Stallings Rd, Thompson Rd, Windrow Ln

Union County: Ansonville Rd, Arthur Dr, Austin Grove Church Rd, Baron Rd, Baucom Tarlton Rd, Bessant Dr, Beulah Church Rd, Big Buck Trail, Billy Howey Rd, Blosson Hill Dr, Bluebird Ln, Blythe Rd, Bobbie Ln, Bonterra Village Way, Brigadoon Ln, Brittany Ct, Brookstone Trail, Brooktree Ln, Buckeye Ct, Byrum Rd, Carol Ave, Carolyn Ln, Carriage Ln, Chambwood Rd, Chasestone Ct, Clark St, Courtland St, Cricket Cove, Darrell Simpson Dr, Denise Dr, Duxbak Ln, E Lawyers Rd, Eaglecrest Dr, Eastwood Dr, Ennis Rd, Esther St, Etheridge St, Faith Church Rd, Falcons Ridge, Farm Creek Rd, Frank Carter Dr, Ginger Ln, Grace Ct, Green View Dr, Hawksnest Ct, Hemby Rd, Hickory Nut Ct, Hoover Ave, Iris St, John Hargette Rd, Kee Ct, Lake Charles Way, Lake Park Rd, Larkfield Dr Lawrence Ct, Lenny Stadler Way, Lincoln Ct, Logan Circle, Marvin Simpson Rd, McIntyre Rd, Mill Pond Dr, Monroe Ansonville Rd, Morning Glory Dr, Mountain Folk Ln, Mullis Newsome Rd, Neptune Way, New Salem Rd, New Town Rd, Nuthatch Dr, Old Mill Rd, Olson Ln, Paddington Dr, Penny Ln, Pine Oak Rd, Providence Farms Rd, Providence Rd, Red Oaks Trail, Reid Dairy Rd, Rolling Meados Dr, Ruth St, S Potter Rd, S Providence Rd, Saturn St, Scarlet St, Scott Long Rd,



Secret Shortcut Rd, Shimron Ln, Ski Trail Ln, Southwind Trail Dr, St Joseph Dr, Stallingswood Rd, Steeplechase Circle, Stevens Mill Rd, Stonegate Rd, Taylor St, Trevor Simpson Dr, Truman St, Tucker Phillips Dr, Valley Glen Dr, Vickie Ln, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Wade Rorie Rd, Watson Church Rd, Weddington Church Rd, West St, Whispering Pines Dr, White Thorn Ln, Woodhaven Rd



For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call 704-289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit union-power.com for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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