

Stay Safe This Harvest Season

As harvest season gets underway, we know many of our members are logging long hours in the fields, moving large equipment from farm to farm and field to field. It's a busy time, and we understand the urgency of bringing in the crops while the weather holds. But we also want to remind our farming community to slow down just long enough to take stock of your surroundings — especially when it comes to overhead power lines.

Each year, electric utilities respond to incidents in which farm equipment has become tangled in, or even completely taken down, power lines. These situations are more than just inconvenient — they're dangerous.

They pose serious risks to the equipment operator, the traveling public, and our lineworkers.

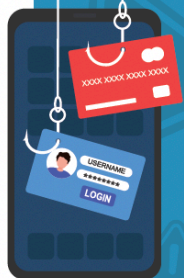
Large machinery like grain carts, combines, and augers can easily reach the height of power lines. If you're not paying attention, it's surprisingly easy to snag a line, knock down a pole, or cause lines to sag into roadways or fields. That creates a hazard not only for yourself, but for others who may unknowingly come into contact with energized lines.

Here's to a safe and successful harvest season.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell, and other connected devices make life more convenient — but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device, and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans, and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns, and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy

