

## Additional Outdoor Safety Tips

- ▲ Wear safety goggles and hearing protection as recommended.
- ▲ Check amperage rating for outdoor extension cords. Rating should be higher than electrical equipment. Use only cords marked "for outdoor use."
- ▲ Shut off power source of outdoor electrical equipment before connecting attachments.
- ▲ Use an adapter with a round tab for three-pronged plug. Never attempt to remove the third prong.
- ▲ Use A Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)\* outlet when operating outdoor electrical equipment.
- ▲ Operate outdoor electrical equipment only on dry days.
- ▲ Keep electrical extension cords out of the walking path of work area.
- ▲ Shut off the power source first, before attempting to retrieve outdoor electrical equipment that has fallen in water.
- ▲ Keep outdoor electrical outlets and equipment unplugged, covered and dry between uses.



\*GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) is a sensitive device which reacts immediately to a small electric current leak by stopping the flow of electricity

These safety tips are  
courtesy of  
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**Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
254 Highway 15-401 By-Pass East  
Post Office Box 1057  
Bennettsville, South Carolina 29512  
  
(843)479-3855 or 1-800-922-9174

Visit our web site at:  
[www.MarlboroElectric.coop](http://www.MarlboroElectric.coop)

# Ladder Safety

## Around Power Lines



# Look Out Above!



You've heard it before: be careful when using any ladder, especially a metal ladder, around power lines.

If you're going to use it anywhere near a power line or electricity source, it's best to replace your metal ladder with a wood or fiberglass ladder.

## If you must use a metal ladder, here are some cautions to keep in mind:

**Metal ladders shift position.** Wind, uneven ground or reaching to the side while on the ladder can cause the ladder, and the person on it, to contact an overhead wire.

**Never place a ladder where it could slide into an overhead line.** Make sure the distance to the nearest overhead line is at least twice the length of the ladder.

**Metal stepladders and extension ladders meeting Underwriters Laboratories and American National Standards Institute Voluntary standards have labels warning about this hazard.** The labels typically state with words and graphic: "Danger! Metal conducts electricity! Keep ladder away from power lines and live electrical wires."

**Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder, especially where the lines connect to the house.** Any power line (including the line running from the street to your house) can permit electricity to flow into a piece of metal or other object, such as a wet tree branch, that touches it.

**Power lines and phone lines often appear similar.** Assume that all overhead wires carry electricity. Some overhead lines are coated to extend the life of the line. The coating is not intended to protect against electrocution.

**Lower the ladder when carrying or moving it to avoid touching an overhead wire.** Since long ladders can be unwieldy, have someone help carry and set up the ladder.

**Never work on a windy day when a gust of wind can cause the ladder to shift and touch an overhead wire.**

**Never use metal ladders when handling an improperly grounded power tool or contacting an electrical source, such as a light socket.**

**Place the ladder's feet on solid, level ground before climbing it.** When the ground is not level or is soft, put a flat piece of wood under one or both feet of the ladder to provide a solid, level base. If possible, tie off the ladder to prevent it from moving.

**If the ladder should start to fall into an overhead line, let it go.** Never try to move it. Do not leave the ladder unattended. Have someone call your cooperative and report the problem, and make sure the electricity to the line is off before you touch the ladder.

**If someone is holding the ladder when it contacts the overhead line, never try to pull them away with your hands.** Use something that does not conduct electricity, such as a long piece of dry wood or rope, to push or pull them loose.

**Keep all ladders and other tools in the SAFE ZONE, at least 10 feet from any power lines.** Never count on a power line to be insulated, no matter what it looks like; most utility power lines are not insulated.

**Wooden ladders can conduct electricity.** So will wet, dirty and defective ladders of any kind. Fiberglass ladders are best, but even they are no guarantee of safety.

**Remember that distances are deceiving from the top of a ladder so make sure you don't lift an antenna or other object up into an overhead line.**



**Think Safety First!**