



JUNE 2026



# CO-OP NEWS

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**May through September**  
Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

**October through April**  
Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

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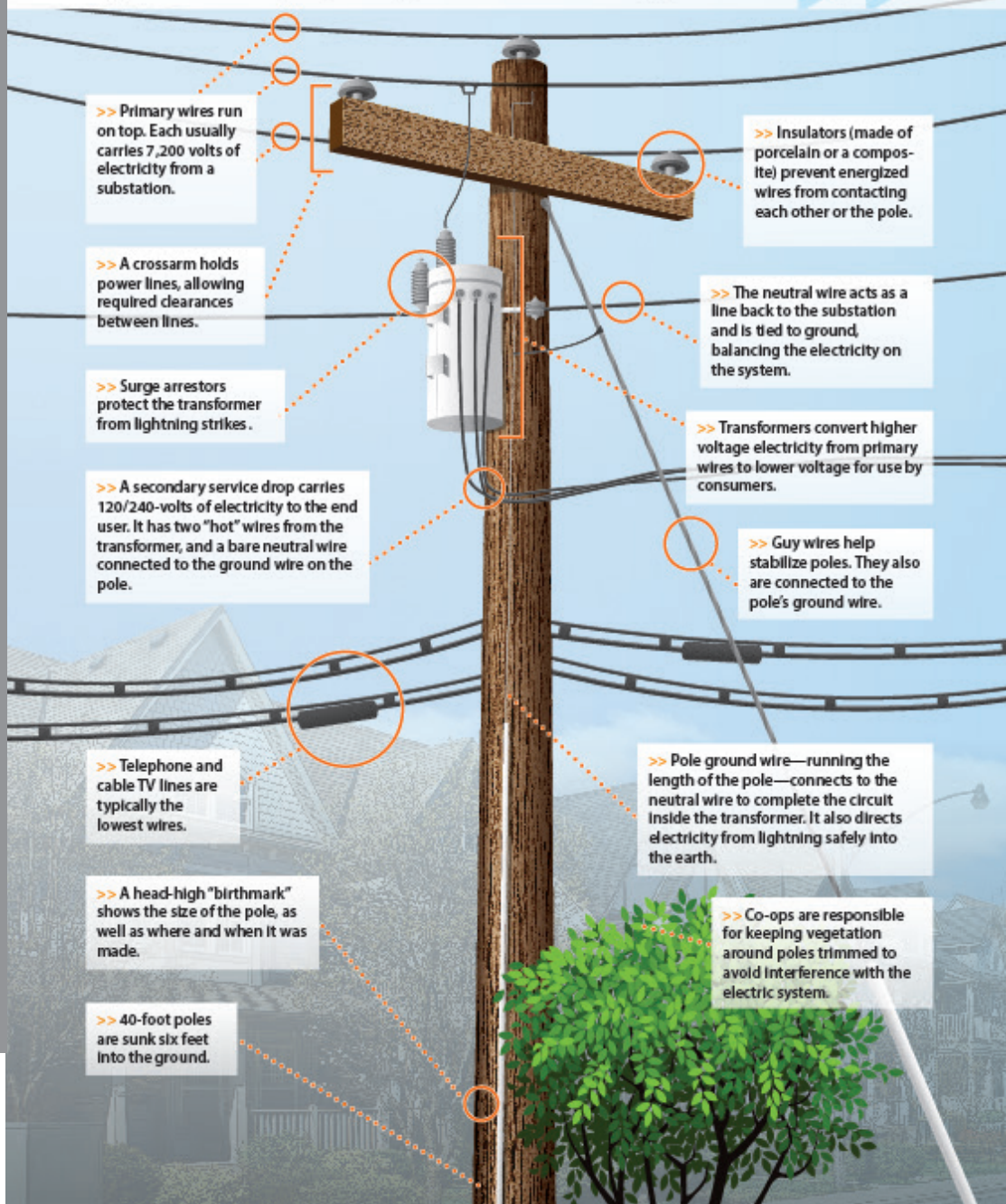
Tiphonie Fuss  
*Office Manager*

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



## >> What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all this equipment on them. They vary according to location and the service they provide.



>> Primary wires run on top. Each usually carries 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation.

>> Insulators (made of porcelain or a composite) prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

>> A crossarm holds power lines, allowing required clearances between lines.

>> The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

>> Surge arrestors protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

>> Transformers convert higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for use by consumers.

>> A secondary service drop carries 120/240-volts of electricity to the end user. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer, and a bare neutral wire connected to the ground wire on the pole.

>> Guy wires help stabilize poles. They also are connected to the pole's ground wire.

>> Telephone and cable TV lines are typically the lowest wires.

>> Pole ground wire—running the length of the pole—connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

>> A head-high "birthmark" shows the size of the pole, as well as where and when it was made.

>> Co-ops are responsible for keeping vegetation around poles trimmed to avoid interference with the electric system.

>> 40-foot poles are sunk six feet into the ground.

# HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM A WILDFIRE

**W**ildfires move fast, but research shows that most homes don't ignite from an unstoppable wall of flames. They ignite from embers – tiny burning pieces of wood or vegetation that can travel over a mile in the wind and land on or near your home. The good news? There are steps you can take to help your home withstand nearby flames.

The most important area to focus on is your Home Ignition Zone – your house and its 200-foot perimeter. Think of it in three layers: closest, middle and outer. Let's walk through what to do in each.

## 1. The Immediate Zone (0-5 feet from your home)

This is the most important zone. Start here. Your goal: create a clean, non-combustible buffer.

- Clear leaves, pine needles and debris from roofs and gutters.
- Repair missing or loose shingles and roof tiles.
- Screen vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh to block embers.
- Repair damaged window screens and replace broken windows.
- Remove mulch, firewood, plants, leaves and anything that can burn from around the house.
- Don't store anything under decks or porches; screen openings to prevent debris buildup.
- Keep the 5 feet closest to buildings, structures and decks clear of flammable materials. Swap mulch for gravel or crushed stone.

## 2. The Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)

This is your landscaping safety zone. The goal is to slow and reduce fire.

- Keep grass trimmed to 4 inches or shorter.
- Trim limbs off tree trunks for at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Space tree canopies at least 18 feet apart (more if on a slope).
- Make sure mature trees are 10-20 feet away from the home.
- Remove shrubs and low branches below trees to prevent fire from climbing.
- Clear plants and grass around propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with walkways, gravel paths, patios or driveways

## 3. The Extended Zone (30-200 feet)

The goal here is to interrupt the fire's path and keep flames small and on the ground.

- Remove piles of leaves, fallen branches and dead plants.
- Remove small conifer trees growing between larger mature trees.
- Clear vegetation around sheds and outbuildings.
- Leave at least 12 feet between canopy tops for trees 30 to 60 feet from the home \*
- Leave at least 6 feet between canopy tops for trees 60 to 100 feet from the home\*

## Access and emergency prep

When every minute counts, make it easy to get help.

- Clearly mark your home address with numbers visible from the road.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood.
- Have a predetermined meeting place.
- Make a wildfire evacuation plan (include your pets and livestock).
- Leave early if you feel unsafe – don't wait to be told.

You don't need to fireproof your entire property to make a difference. The small details closest to your home could determine whether it withstands a wildfire. One weekend of cleanup and some thoughtful upgrades can dramatically shift the odds in your favor and bring peace of mind for seasons to come.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Smokeybear.com

## Wildfire Alerts and Warnings and What They Mean

Understanding alerts can help you know when to prepare and when conditions may become dangerous.

### Fire weather alerts

- Red flag warning:** Critical fire weather conditions are happening or about to happen.
- Fire weather watch:** Conditions are dry, favorable for critical fire weather and could become dangerous.

### National Wildfire Risk Levels

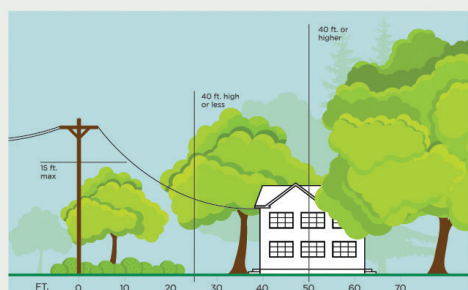
- Low (Green):** Fire starts are unlikely.
- Moderate (Blue):** Some wildfires may occur.
- High (Yellow):** Wildfires are likely.
- Very High (Orange):** Fires start easily and spread quickly, and are difficult to control.
- Extreme (Red):** Fires start and spread rapidly. No outdoor burning should take place.

Safe Electricity.org

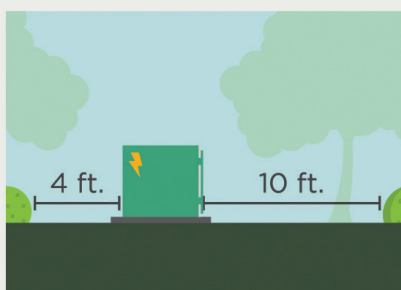
# 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

**1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all. Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.**

## Efficiency Tip

Keep TVs, lamps and other heat-producing items away from your thermostat. They can affect the temperature reading and cause your cooling system to run longer than needed.



Safe Electricity.org



THE WYRULEC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**



# FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand in hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! Keep these safety tips in mind:



- Make sure you use fireworks away from power lines and poles.
- Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks, including sparklers, which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- Never reignite malfunctioning fireworks - Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak 'duds' before throwing them away.
- Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid injuries and frightened reactions.



**The following names have been drawn for a \$25 bill credit.  
Contact Wyrulec Company at 877-WYRULEC to claim your credit!**

Jeffrey & Karen Hansen  
Donald McDowell  
Bear Mountain Beef Inc

Eric Bartsch  
Glenn Sheffler

