




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We are committed to the well-being of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.*

### How to reach us

Garland Light & Power Co.

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Powell, Wyoming 82435

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Office hours: 8:00am-4:30pm

Mon-Fri

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# Power Pointz

April 2020

## Wildlife Woes With Equipment

Besides being cute and fun to watch, animals can disrupt power. Although we do all we can to prevent animal interference by using equipment guards, antiroosting devices or other animal friendly deterrents, sometimes our efforts are no match for persistent and curious critters who use overhead power lines as a superhighway or substations as a nesting ground. According to the Electrical Engineering Portal, the following classes of animals have caused shorts and subsequent power outages or service disruptions:

- Squirrels love to use power lines as their overhead highway. They are agile and crafty, oftentimes equipment guards and other deterrents cannot keep them away much like a squirrel outsmarting a bird feeder. If they touch the power line and pole simultaneously, the electric current travels through them and their demise can cause problems with power transmission.
- Mice, rats and gophers sometimes cause interruptions in service by gnawing through underground cables. These offenders and others can also try to make a home in a substation, which often does not turn out well for them and can cause a hiccup in power distribution for us.
- Birds of different species can cause different types of problems. Although small birds can sit on a wire without a problem, some larger varieties like to build nests at the tops of poles, on transmission towers and in substations. Nesting material can cause faults (abnormal electric currents), and bird droppings can contaminate insulators, according to EEP. Other times, large birds with long wing spans can touch a live power line with one wing tip and something else with the other and becomes a conductor for the voltage to pass through them. This is called "bridging".



- Large animals like cattle and horses can cause damage to guy wires and poles. They can cause physical damage, creating an outage or making the system more prone to outages in the future.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Operation Round Up® is a volunteer program in which Garland Light and Power Co. Members can choose to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar each month, in order to help those in need. The money will be used to assist local individuals and non-profit organizations in the communities we serve.

Please return this form to our office if you would like to participate and help those who need a helping hand.

Funds are never provided for political purposes.

Yes! I'd like to help.

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Member Signature

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Date

## Do Your Part To Keep Lineworkers Safe

Imagine this scenario: It's nearing 5 p.m. on a workday. Your boss wants that last minute report and your kids need to be picked up from soccer practice or play rehearsal. You jump in your car and on the way you approach a work zone. You don't have time to slow down so you rush through it and ignore the orange work zone signs.

Or this one: You're having a garage sale and you think posting a sign on a utility pole won't hurt. Everyone else does it, right?

In reality, either of these scenarios could injure or kill one of our lineworkers.

The job of an electric lineworker is not easy. Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working on and around live power out in the elements.

We ask you to do your part to keep them safe:

- Slow down and move over in work zones. Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground, but driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in danger by causing it to move or sway.
- Do not post anything on a utility pole, especially with staples, nails or tacks. These can puncture insulated gloves or other protective clothing and expose workers to high voltages.
- Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet. The power that backfeeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker.
- Please be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power.

We appreciate your help in keeping our employees safe.

## WHAT IS THAT BIG GREEN BOX?

As more and more electric lines are buried in neighborhoods and throughout your local electric co-op's territory, more big green metal boxes (about the size of a mini fridge) are likely to be seen. These are pad-mounted transformers.

They may look different, but they serve the same purpose as those gray cans normally seen on top of power poles. They step high-voltage electricity down so it is more useful and safer for your home. The only difference is that the pad-mounted transformer connects to underground power lines rather than overhead lines.

These green boxes look pretty innocuous in your neighborhood, but they should be treated with the same respect you show overhead power lines. They route a lot of electricity and a lot of danger lurks inside.

NEVER open one. Report it to us if you find it unlocked or the lock is broken. Teach children to stay away from them. Don't use them as a bench while waiting for a bus. Don't play on them. Never use them as a step stool to reach something overhead.

That big green box is an important part of the electric grid.



## Summer Hours

Garland Light & Power is changing to a 4/10 work week from April 27 to September 28

Hours of operation will be:

7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
Closed on Fridays

Standby crews will be available from Friday through Sunday for outage situations by calling:

**754-2881**

Don't forget to  
**LIKE** us on



When you see our linemen working, please slow down. They are working hard to keep your lights on and we want to keep them safe.

