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CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

## Go above and beyond for a safe harvest

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

### Complete awareness

Awareness of your surroundings — around, above and below — and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground power lines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other kinds of portable filling equipment are used.

### Smart harvest safety tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org) recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- **Exercise caution near power lines.** Be careful when raising augers or the beds of grain trucks around power lines.
- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- **Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death.

- **Avoid using metal poles inside bins.** Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.

- **Hire qualified electricians.** Ensure that qualified professionals handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.



NRECA

# Electrical safety tips for hunters

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind that along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should be a priority.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt, but be aware of power lines.

**Never place a tree stand on a utility pole or near a power line.** Energized lines and related equipment on utility poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

**It is ILLEGAL to shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. It is a Class D felony, punishable by up to six years in prison, with fines up to \$10,000.** Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service and causing physical risks to those nearby.

For your safety, follow these additional electrical safety tips:

- Familiarize yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment, especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.
- Observe all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting out a location for your tree stand.
- Look up and look out for power lines, and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.
- Never climb a utility pole.
- Do not place dove decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Nonelectrical attachments can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our lineworkers.

For more information about safety around power lines and other sources of electricity, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



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**Our offices will close on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.**

**SHOOTING AT POWER LINES IS ILLEGAL!**  
*Be Safe on the Hunt*

- It is illegal to shoot power lines, fiber-optic cable, insulators or other electrical equipment.
- Never place dove decoys on power lines, pad-mounted transformers, substations or other utility equipment.
- Do not come within 10 feet of an overhead power line or pole when hunting.
- Never climb a utility pole.

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## EPA rule threatens electric reliability

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Intermittent sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our Balance of Power generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge

in electricity demand — driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

Just as electric cooperatives have always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all.

Electric cooperatives deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

For more information, visit [aecc.com/balance-of-power](https://aecc.com/balance-of-power).

### IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:

- 1** Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2** Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3** Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4** Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5** Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

