



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Think safety when landscaping this fall



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Fall will officially begin on Sept. 22 and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home's exterior a fresh look, but there's one thing many people don't consider before they start their landscaping projects – power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, review this list of safety tips:

- ▶ **Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines.** Central Electric has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren't too close to power lines. If you happen to see any that may look too close, call us, and we will send out the experts.
- ▶ **Ladders are conductors of electricity.** It's best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn't inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.
- ▶ **Call 811 before you dig** to identify where underground utility lines are buried even if you're just planting a tree or shrub. Digging around lines can cause serious injury as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit NC811.org.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you're around power lines. If you have any questions, please contact us at 919-774-4900.