

Rules you can live with

Not all rules are “made to be broken.” Some are made to save lives. Little River Electric Cooperative urges you to follow these safety rules:

- Consider all utility lines dangerous; keep objects such as kites, ladders, and antennas away from power lines.
- If power lines are underground, call Little River Electric Cooperative before you dig.
- Never touch a person or object that is in contact with a power line.
- Never touch, kick, pull, or attempt to move a fallen or hanging power line. Notify us immediately and keep others away from the line until utility employees arrive.
- When working outside, stay clear of overhead power lines or exposed wires. Before installing an antenna, make sure it cannot fall into power line, causing power outages, injuries, and even death.
- Check all extension and appliance cords frequently. Replace any worn or frayed cords immediately. Do not patch a broken cord.
- When buying electrical equipment or appliances, always look for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) seal and make sure it applies to the entire appliance, not just the plug or cord.
- Do not run electrical cords through doorways or under carpets. Do not drape them over radiators, pipes, or other metal objects.
- Fly kites in open fields away from electric wires. Do not use wire, metal, or wet string on a kite. If your kite catches in a wire or on a high pole, do not try to remove it—call Little River Electric Cooperative. Do not fly a kite in wet or stormy weather.
- Never fire a gun at a security light, power line, insulator, or transformer.
- Be sure tools and appliances are properly grounded. A three-prong plug used in a two-wire receptacle must have an adapter. Install a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) in bathrooms, kitchens, workshops, and outside outlets.
- Do not touch electrical switch while your hands are damp. Never handle an electrical cord or appliance while in water.
- Handling electrical appliances improperly can cause a fire. Do not let appliance cords overheat. If they feel extremely warm, discontinue use.
- To prevent overheating, use extension cords large enough to carry the amount of current needed to operate the appliance. Use heavy-duty appliances.
- If you have small children, childproof your home by installing plastic protective caps over electrical outlets. Place waterproof covers on all outdoor outlets.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from flammable draperies, blankets and sofas.
- To stay safe, make sure space heaters are equipped with automatic-off features and heating element guards.
- Place your space heaters out of high traffic areas and on level, hard, non-flammable floor surfaces—not on carpets, furniture or countertops.