TALKING POINTS

**Electric safety talking points**

[CO-OP NAME] is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that serves more than [METER COUNT] meters in [COUNTIES SERVED].

May is National Electric Safety Month, and [CO-OP NAME] is using the opportunity to remind everyone to be safe around electricity.

Electricity provides many of the benefits and conveniences that make modern life possible, but it must be treated with respect. What you don’t know or choose to ignore about electrical safety could seriously injure or kill you or someone you love.

[CO-OP NAME] offers these tips to keep you and your family safe this summer:

* Keep people and pets away from damaged power lines and other electrical equipment. Don’t touch anything in contact with downed lines such as a car, tree, fence or clothesline.
* Don’t climb trees; fly kites, remote control airplanes or drones; or release balloons near power lines. If you get something stuck on a power line, call [CO-OP NAME] or 911 and stay away!

* Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines when working with ladders or installing objects such as antennas or gutters on your home.
* If a power line falls on your car, stay inside the vehicle. Call or ask someone to call 911, then [CO-OP NAME] at [CO-OP EMERGENCY NUMBER]. If you must exit the car, open the door and jump free of the car so that your body clears the vehicle before touching the ground. Once you clear the car, shuffle away using small steps, keeping both feet on the ground, until you are at least 50 feet away.
* All electrical work should be performed by a licensed electrician.
* Use GFCI-protected outlets in kitchens and bathrooms. Water and electricity do not mix.
* Routinely check cords, outlets, switches and appliances for signs of damage. Immediately stop using damaged electrical devices and have them replaced or repaired.
* Do not overload outlets with too many devices or appliances.
* Never run extension cords under rugs or carpets.
* When replacing bulbs, always follow recommended wattage guidelines.
* Test smoke alarms once a month, and replace batteries once a year.
* Don’t throw water on an electrical fire. Use an approved fire extinguisher.

Find additional safety tips and information on [CO-OP NAME]’s website at [URL] or at everydaysafe.org.