



# UPGRADE YOUR SPACE *SAFELY*

## WHEN PLANNING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT INVOLVE ELECTRICAL WORK – DO YOU KNOW WHEN TO DIY AND WHEN TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL?

Home rewiring, breaker box replacement and adding a large number of electrical outlets should be left for the pros. Faulty electrical installations can lead to large expenses and even injuries or death.

If you're doing work yourself with power tools, be careful.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with power tools to protect against electrical shock. Use caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be.
- Never use power tools without the proper guards or near live electrical wires or pipes.

If your home improvement includes additional outlets, make sure your electrical panel and service can handle the added load.

Call 811 several days in advance if digging is part of the project so the underground utilities can be marked.

Contact your electric utility if your meter must be removed or relocated to accommodate renovations to your property.

**Noble REMC**

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# Hit a pole? *STAY IN YOUR CAR!*

STEPPING OUT OF THE CAR IMMEDIATELY AFTER STRIKING A UTILITY POLE MAY **KILL YOU**. HERE'S WHY:

**Power lines can fall.** When a pole is struck, power lines and hardware can break loose from their insulated perches atop the pole.

**Fallen power lines can still be energized.** Even touching the ground, power lines can be carrying 7,200 volts or more. They may not spark or buzz.

**Fallen power lines are hard to see.** When knocked down and twisted with tall grass or trees as a background, especially at night, power lines are almost impossible to see.

**Electricity seeks all paths to the ground.** If you get out of the car and touch a live power line and the ground, you become that path. That amount of electricity passing through you can kill you instantly.

**Call 911.** Tell them you hit a pole and wait. Tell passersby to stay back. First responders will see if power lines are down, and if so, will call and wait on the utility's responders to arrive before they can even approach the car.

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