

## Staying Safe During Emergencies

- Never touch a person who has been shocked by live, indoor electricity. Turn off the power source if possible. If this is not possible, try to separate the power source from the person with a wooden object, dry rope, or dry clothing. Dial 911 immediately.
- If a power line falls on your car, stay inside. If your car catches fire, jump clear of the car, and do not touch metal and the ground at the same time.
- Contact RMPU immediately if there is a downed power line. Never attempt to touch or move the line. Never touch anything in contact with the line.
- If you have an electrical fire, unplug the appliance or turn off the main power switch. Use a CO<sup>2</sup> fire extinguisher or plain baking soda to put it out. Never use water to put out an electrical fire. Call 911 immediately.

## Water Hazards

- Do not stand in water or on a damp floor when using appliances or power tools. Do not put any electrical parts in water.
- Never touch or lean on plumbing pipes while touching an appliance.
- If you're putting in a swimming pool in your yard, don't locate it under power lines.

**For electrical emergencies or to report an outage, call (252) 467-4800.**

**For fires or life emergencies, call 911.**

**For additional information regarding Electrical Safety:**

Visit the Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) website at [www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities).



*For quick access to electrical safety information on the RMPU website, scan this QR code using your smartphone.*

# Electrical Safety Information



Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) recommends the following electrical safety measures to protect yourself and others both inside and outside your home.

### Appliances

- Keep appliances in good condition. When they need repairs, call a qualified service person.
- Always unplug appliances (by pulling the plug, not the cord) when they're not in use.
- Do not overload electric outlets.
- Replace the appliance when a cord is worn or frayed. Extension cords should be used temporarily.
- Keep all appliances at a safe distance from water.

### Child Safety

- Cover seldom-used outlets with plastic safety plugs.
- Put fans and portable heaters out of reach.
- For outlets used frequently, get safety covers that let appliance cords pass in and out.
- Replace burned out bulbs immediately. Never leave sockets empty.
- Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- Teach children to look for "Danger" signs displayed on all high voltage equipment.
- Do not release metallic balloons into the air. They can get caught in power lines and cause outages.

- Never sit or play on pad-mounted transformers. Call RMPU immediately if a door is found open.
- Never allow children to play near electrical outlets.

### Fuses and Circuit Breakers

- If you lose power in your home, see if you have blown a fuse or tripped a circuit breaker.
- Do not stand on a damp floor or stand in front of the panel when resetting a circuit breaker.
- Never replace a fuse with a foreign object or anything other than a properly sized compatible fuse.
- Always follow safety precautions when using a standby generator.

### Outdoors

- Never tamper with the electric meter as it is both illegal and extremely dangerous.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are weatherproofed and protected by

- a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
- Never climb a utility pole or attempt to remove an object from a power line. If there is an obstruction on the line, contact RMPU immediately.
- Touching a power line while using an aluminum ladder or while working on the roof could cause serious injury or be fatal. Always look overhead for power lines before working.
- When pruning trees, check above to avoid touching a power line.
- Do not plant tall-growing trees under power lines. If power lines are running through a tree, stay away from it and call RMPU at (252) 467-4800.

### Portable Heaters

- Keep space heaters away from flammable items like curtains, sheets or blankets.
- Buy heaters that automatically shut off if knocked over.
- Unplug the heater when not in use.

### Power Tools

- When working outside, use only heavy-duty extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- Keep tools clean, and use and store them in a dry place. Dampness increases shock hazard.
- Protect cords from heat, chemicals, gases or oil, and coil them loosely when finished.

