



**AVOID HOME  
IMPROVEMENT  
DISASTERS!  
CALL FIRST...DIG  
LATER!**

With the summer months finally here, now is the time to begin those building and landscaping projects you've been planning all winter long. But before you begin, do you know where your utility lines are located? Your soon-to-be garage, swimming pool or sprinkler system could sit above underground lines. Pulling out trees or shrubs with roots wrapped around utility lines could be a disaster!

If utility lines are cut or damaged, you could be held accountable for those damages. Just one phone call could save you money, and also could save your life! To avoid a potential accident, call Line Locate from the Utility Notification Center (UNCC) at 1-800-922-1987 before you dig. This service is FREE—it's the LAW! For further information, visit UNCC's website at: [www.uncc2.org](http://www.uncc2.org).



**Make Electrical Safety  
your #1 Priority This  
Summer Season!**



**City of Fountain  
Electric Department**

*6745 Southmoor Drive  
Fountain, CO 80817*

**Tel: 719-322-2092**

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## MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE

### INDOORS AND OUT

The City of Fountain’s Electric Department along with the Electrical Safety Foundation International has the following information for practicing safety around the home:

- Do not use equipment that is damaged or improperly modified. Always use equipment according to the manufacturer’s specifications. Do not use tools designed for indoor use when working outdoors.
- Do not carry ladders or other long objects near overhead power lines. Remember, electricity can travel from one location to another even if objects are not touching.
- Check cords. All cords should be damage and deterioration free. Extension cords should be used only as temporary connections. Do not hide cords under rugs; it can cause a fire hazard. Make sure cords have a secure path when working with outdoor equipment to prevent cutting cords or causing electrical shock.
- When trimming or removing tree limbs, be sure to stay away from all electrical lines. If an electrical line is too close to trees or limbs, please contact the City of Fountain Electric Department (719-322-2092) **FIRST**—before trimming.
- Encourage children to be safe when



playing. Remind them to fly kites or model airplanes away from all power line areas. Never climb trees close to power lines. Do not climb or stand on large electrical boxes.

- When playing with water guns (often referred to as “Super Soakers”), stay away from power lines. Super Soakers can spray high enough to create a path for electricity to follow.
- If a storm approaches, stay away from trees and water. Seek shelter inside a house or building. If it is too late to get inside, drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. This allows electricity to have an escape route out of the body. Do not lie flat on the ground.

## DO A SUMMER SAFETY AUDIT

With the summer season in full swing, many of us have our minds on barbecues, weekend get-togethers and outdoor parties. Before using your equipment for the first time, you should perform a safety audit of all electrical components.



- Checking the total wattage of equipment you will utilize is a great start. Add up the power ratings of everything you will use (i.e., garden lights, electric grills, hot tubs, pools, stereos, etc.) plus everything else that is already on your circuit. If you

exceed the circuit wattage limitation, you are likely to blow a fuse or trip the circuit breaker. Not only will you put a serious damper on your event, but it could also cause hidden damage to the circuit or equipment. You should redistribute your power needs to more than one source or reduce the electrical load. If your calculations exceed the limit of the circuit wattage, you need to find another source to redistribute the load. Using extension cords is one way to accomplish this task; however, use cords that are rated for outdoor use and are the correct amperage for the job. Keep in mind extension cords are not designed for long term use.

- Use products that are only intended for outdoor use. “Indoor Use Only” products are not designed to be weather resistant. A sudden summer shower can damage the product and turn it into a serious shock hazard.
- Avoid water hazards. The placement of electrical equipment is essential to your safety. Do not place stereos, garden lights, or extension cords near hot tubs or pools. Keep cords away from puddles or sweating pipes. If an electrical product falls into water, make sure you disconnect the power before removing the equipment. Do not reach into the water to retrieve it!



*Fountain wishes you a safe and fun summer!*