

Lifetime of **SAFETY**

Safety messages for Texans of all ages

The same yard tools that help trim, edge, weed and mow can pose outdoor hazards if electrical safety tips are ignored.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that 8 percent of accidental electrocutions in the United States each year are related to small appliances. Another 7 percent are attributed to power tools, and 4 percent are linked to lawn, garden and farming equipment.

Oncor Electric Delivery offers these tips to help homeowners avoid injury while using yard and gardening equipment. Before flipping the “on” switch, see that:

- **The tool is intended for outdoor use** and is certified by a recognized testing lab.
- **Cords, plugs and wiring** are in good condition.
- **Extension cords are intended for outdoor use.** Extension cord gauges should match the amperage rating of the power tool.
- **Safety guards or shields on mowers, saws and other outdoor tools are in place.** Never remove the safety guard from an electric-powered tool or appliance.

Once tools and accessories are inspected, these safety rules will help protect you, as well as children, pets and other bystanders:

- **Carry power tools by the handle,** never by the cord.
- **When using an electrical device, hold it by the insulated gripping surface** to avoid electrical shock.
- **Turn off and lock appliances when installing attachments** such as mower baskets or saw blades.
- **Never leave a power tool unattended,** even temporarily. If there is a key, remove it.
- **Keep the power and extension cords out of the way** – not draped over a hedge or in the path of the mower, for example.
- **Wear safety goggles or other protection when mowing, trimming or edging.** Avoid loose clothing or jewelry that could be caught in moving parts.

For more information about electric safety, visit

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