

# CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • JULY 2025



## Keep your devices charged when you're off the grid

Spending time outdoors is important. It's also important to stay connected while you're camping, hiking or on the water so you can track weather conditions and handle emergencies.

Without easy access to outlets, keeping your electronics charged requires planning. Here are ways to extend battery life, and stay powered up and safe outdoors.

### Charge before you go

Fully charge your phone, camera, GPS or other devices before you hit the road. Don't forget extra batteries for flashlights or headlamps.

Keep chargers in your car, but only charge devices while the engine is running to avoid draining the car battery. Hide cords and chargers from view if you leave your car unattended.

### Pack smart

Bring lightweight power banks and multi-use gear like solar lanterns with USB ports. Emergency radios and portable speakers often offer charging jacks, too.

### Optimize battery life

Switch to airplane mode to prevent your phone from searching for a cell signal. This also helps you fully unplug without the distraction of text messages or Instagram notifications.

Turn off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and GPS when not in use. Dim screen brightness or enable power saving mode — or simply turn

your phone off when not in use. Save your battery for essential tasks such as navigation or emergencies.

### Choose campsites with power

Look for campgrounds with electric hookups to make charging simple and stress-free. Bring an outdoor-rated extension cord to charge multiple devices at once.

### Harness alternative energy

Flexible solar panel chargers are perfect for sunny days outdoors. Hook one up directly to your phone or power bank. For overcast conditions, hand-crank chargers can offer enough power for an emergency phone call, while wind, water and fire-powered options provide additional back up.

### Protect your devices

Keeping your devices safe and functional is just as important as keeping them charged. Store devices securely to prevent damage from falls or dirt exposure. Use waterproof cases to guard against rain or spills. Avoid exposure to extreme temperatures, as batteries drain faster in hot or cold weather. During cold weather, keep electronics close to your body for prolonged battery life.

With these tips, you'll stay safe and connected while you recharge in the great outdoors — ready for any adventure!

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## Firework Safety - Watch for Power Lines

As communities gear up for festive celebrations, it's crucial to remember the importance of fireworks safety, especially concerning power lines. Fireworks can pose a significant risk of electrical hazards if not used responsibly, particularly when near power lines.

### Use Caution with Aerial Displays:

Aerial fireworks, such as rockets or mortars, can travel high into the sky and pose a risk of striking overhead power lines. Exercise caution when launching aerial displays, ensuring they are directed away from power lines and other electrical infrastructure.

### Stay Clear of Power Lines:

When selecting a location to set off fireworks, always ensure a safe distance from overhead power lines. Accidental contact with power lines can result in electric shocks, fires, or power outages. Be mindful of the height and trajectory of fireworks.

### Report Downed Power Lines:

If you encounter a downed power line or suspect damage to electrical infrastructure due to fireworks, stay away and immediately contact Cornhusker PPD and emergency services. Never approach or touch a downed power line, as it may still be energized and pose a severe risk of electric shock.

## Knowing 'what to do' may save your life

Every year, incidents involving power poles and the public occur. These incidents are extremely dangerous and can cause serious or fatal injury.

With the ever-increasing size of equipment, height of augers, and speed of vehicles it is understandable how more incidents might occur.

The first thing to do should you come upon an accident scene or make contact with poles, wires, or enclosures is to call 911 and/or Cornhusker Public Power District. Never assume a wire laying on the ground is de-energized.

Stay in the equipment or vehicle. Electric voltage might be dispersing in ripples away from the point where electricity is going to ground. As it dissipates, there is less voltage. If you would have one foot in one band of voltage and the other foot in a lesser voltage - the electricity will want to equalize through your body and you could be electrocuted. This is known as step potential.

Warn others approaching the scene to stay back and wait until utility personnel arrive. Anyone crossing into the area could be severely or fatally injured. People inside the vehicle in such an accident are safe, because they are not providing a path to ground.

If there is a fire, exit the vehicle without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, then hop or shuffle with your feet as close together as possible to reduce the exposure to the ripples of voltage that could be pulsing through the soil.

When our line technicians arrive at the scene of your accident, they are likely to tell you to stay put while they make sure the line is de-energized and place grounds on the line so rescuers can safely enter the scene to help you.

Safety is a core value to all of us at Cornhusker Public Power District. This value is not limited to the employees of Cornhusker Public Power District. We want our customers and anyone traveling through our service territory to be safe.

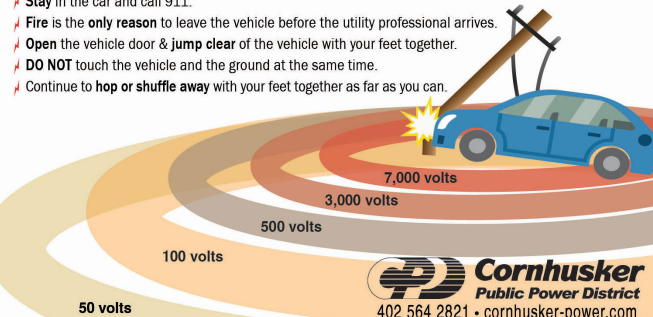
Please be aware of your surroundings. Know what step potential is. Stay inside the vehicle. Knowing 'what to do' may save your life.

Cornhusker Public Power District has cards available at the Columbus office for you to place in your vehicle so you have a reminder of what to do.

**STEP POTENTIAL** know what to do

If the car you are in hits a utility pole, your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized. Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY INJURED**!

- Stay in the car and call 911.
- Fire is the **only** reason to leave the vehicle before the utility professional arrives.
- Open the vehicle door & **jump clear** of the vehicle with your feet together.
- DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Continue to **hop or shuffle** away with your feet together as far as you can.



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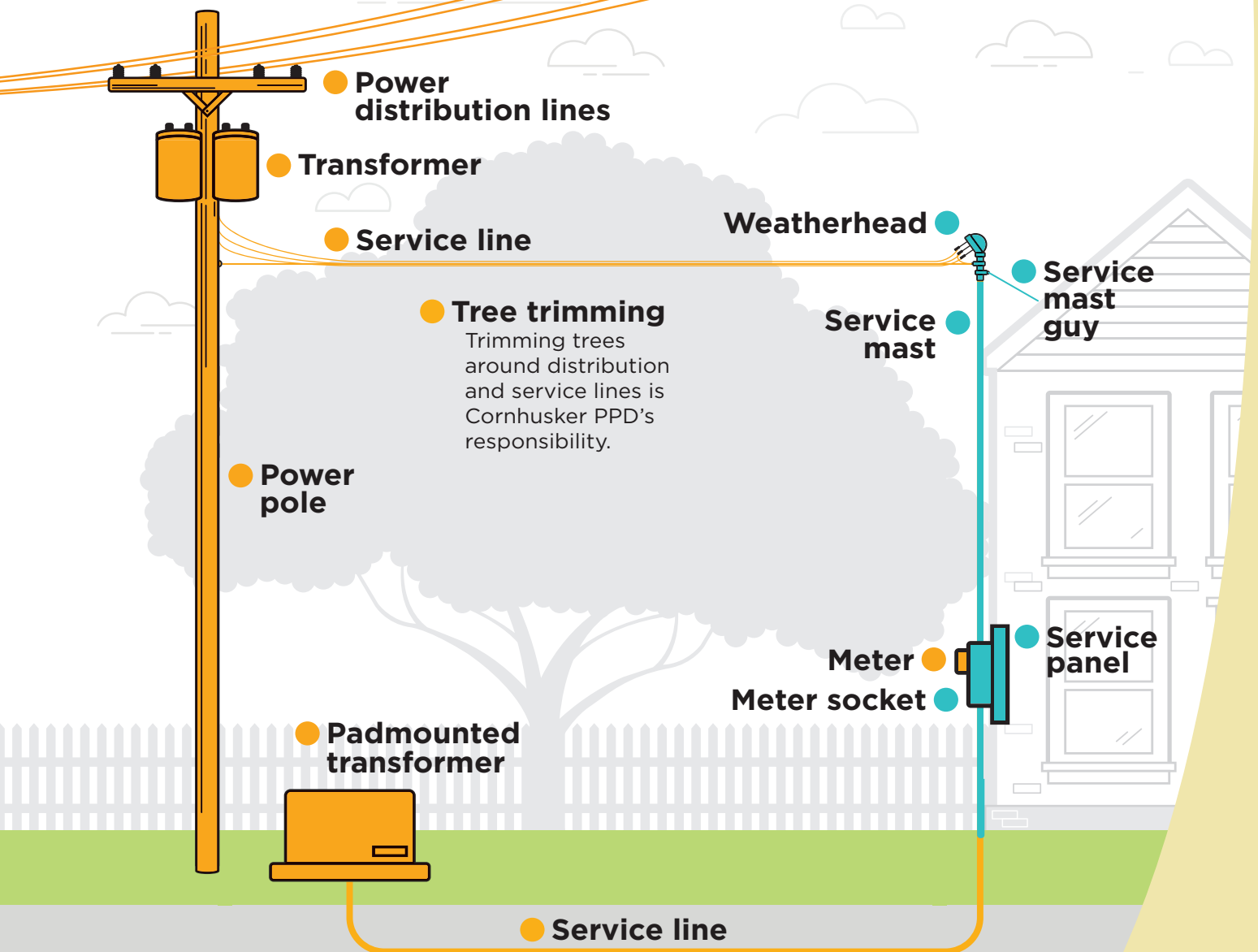
# Who Owns What?

## Cornhusker Public Power District owned equipment vs customer-owned equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by Cornhusker PPD (in gold) and the customer (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by CPPD, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any customer-owned equipment, the customer is responsible for repairs. Customers should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to customer-owned equipment.

● Cornhusker PPD owned

● Customer-owned



*Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home.*



## Welcome

### Peter Drozda hired as groundcrew foreman

**P**eter Drozda was hired as the groundcrew foreman at Cornhusker Public Power District on June 9, 2025.

He graduated from Northeast CC from the utility line program. He also served in the United States Marines.

His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and spending time with family.



Peter Drozda

### Cameron Houfek hired as an apprentice line technician

**C**ameron Houfek was hired as an apprentice line technician on the Columbus crew at Cornhusker Public Power District on May 22, 2025.

He is a 2023 graduate of Scotus Central Catholic High School. He graduated from the utility line program at Northeast CC in May 2025.

His hobbies include 4-wheeling, fishing, and golf.



Cameron Houfek

## Promotions

### Adam Becker is now Lead Substation-Metering/IT-OT Tech

**A**dam Becker embraces a new opportunity and title - lead substation/metering/IT-OT technician. Becker has been the lead substation/metering technician since 2023, and will continue in that role; however, he will be spending more time working with the IT/OT department to provide better backup and redundancy to that department.

Becker was first hired in May 2010 as meter/apparatus technician.

He graduated from Northeast CC in 2010 with a degree in electrical construction/control and electromechanical technology.



Adam Becker

### Clint Williams promoted to substation/metering supervisor

**C**lint Williams was promoted to substation/metering supervisor at Cornhusker Public Power District on June 3, 2025.

Williams was hired as an apprentice line technician on the Columbus construction crew in 2009. He earned journey line technician status in 2015 and was promoted to meter-apparatus technician in 2017.

He graduated from the utility line program at Northeast CC in 2009.



Clint Williams

We will be  
**CLOSED**  
on the  
**4th of July**

CEO/GM  
Clay Gibbs

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Board meetings held the third Monday  
of each month at 9 AM. Agenda  
available during business hours.

### EDITOR

Jessica Kurpgeweit

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Closed weekends and holidays

### SERVICE CENTERS

ALBION, NE AND FULLERTON, NE

[cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com)

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