



## Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### **BECI REMINDS MEMBERS TO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE WHEN PLANTING** *Avoid power lines and underground transformers*

DeRidder, LA - Trees are prized possessions so homeowners commonly add trees to their yards. But if trees are planted too close to power lines, a potentially hazardous situation can be created. The same is true when shrubs or fences are placed too near the green metal boxes that house an underground electric transformer.

**Never plant trees under or near power lines.** This not only creates a hazard, but eventually a utility right-of-way crew will have to remove or extensively trim that tree. Trees and power lines can co-exist, but only when certain guidelines are followed and safe planting distances are maintained.

It's important that utility crews and servicemen have clear access 24-hours-a-day to underground electric transformers. Unfortunately, homeowners often landscape around those green, metal boxes.

Since transformers are connected to underground power lines, **you should never dig anywhere in the yard without first calling your utility to locate and mark buried cables.**

Never put anything close to the sides of an underground transformer. Never enclose or obstruct the transformer with fencing, shrubs or any other obstruction. Never allow children to play on the transformer, and never pour waste oil or other liquids on or near the transformer as these can seep into the ground and may damage the underground cables.

#### **Other safety tips:**

- Always maintain at least a 10-foot safety margin from any overhead power line.
- Call all utility companies before digging. Telephone, water, gas, cable TV and electric utilities will be happy to advise you of areas to avoid.
- Never climb trees that are near power lines.
- Always call your utility before pruning or trimming trees near power lines.
- Never touch a tree limb that has fallen on electric lines. They can conduct current and are dangerous. Call your utility or local law enforcement agencies to report the situation immediately.

If you have any questions, please call BECI at (337) 463-6221 or (800) 367-0275.