

Lines

THE NEWSLETTER FOR DELMARVA POWER CUSTOMERS

WWW.DELMARVA.COM

MAY 2008



A PHI Company

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: *We're planning to upgrade our kitchen. Should we have the electrical wiring checked beforehand?*

A: Yes. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that wiring hazards account for thousands of residential electrical fires annually. So it's a good idea to have a licensed electrician check out your wiring.

They'll inspect for the following:

- Wiring hazards – such as damaged and exposed wiring.
- Frequently blown fuses and tripping circuit breakers.
- Loose or broken outlet connections.

Electricians can also install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) and ground fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs) for added precautions. See related story on the right for more electrical safety information.)

We're connected to you by more than power lines.®

Make Electrical Safety a 24/7 Goal

Whether restoring power or taking part in a community event, Delmarva Power works safely and we promote safety through public education efforts.

That's why during National Electrical Safety Month we remind customers to focus on safety – not only in May – but year-round.

Faulty wiring, overloaded circuits and misuse of extension cords are common electrical hazards in many homes.

So how can you reduce potential wiring dangers? Take a moment to review how you can keep your family safe from electrical hazards.

- Use extension cords only as a temporary measure. If a permanent solution is required, consider installing additional electrical outlets.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent children from sticking objects in outlets. These devices have spring-loaded shutters that close contact with slots.
- Make sure ground fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs) are installed in areas where water is used such as kitchens, bathrooms, outdoor areas, basements and garages.
- Check with your building contractor to ensure arc fault circuit-interrupters (AFCI) are installed in all new construction. An AFCI shuts off circuits during arcing, usually caused by damaged wires or cords.

Visit delmarva.com or the National Fire Protection Association's Web site at nfa.org to learn more about electrical safety at home.

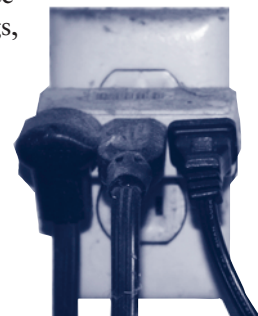
USE ELECTRICAL CORDS WITH CAUTION

- Keep plugged-in appliances away from water and water sources.
- Never overload electrical outlets, power strips, surge protectors or circuits, and never run any electric cords under rugs, carpets or in walkways.
- Carefully inspect extension cords. Replace those with frays, damage or other wear.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. Install additional outlets for your appliances and electronics.

Visit the Electrical Safety Federation International's Web site at esfi.org for more information.

POWER OUT?

*In New Castle County, DE; Cecil and Harford Counties, MD: 1-800-898-8042
In Kent & Sussex Counties, DE; and the Eastern Shore of MD: 1-800-898-8045
For Natural Gas Emergencies in New Castle County, DE, ONLY: 302-454-0317*



The Right Tree in the Right Place

We value trees for their natural beauty, as a source of shade and for their environmental benefits. Unfortunately, trees also play a role in power outages. Storms with high winds and heavy rain can bring down branches, even whole trees, on power lines causing outages.

That's why when planting new trees it's important to plant "the right tree in the right place." Here are some guidelines:

Tall Trees

Maple, Sycamore, Oak, Spruce and Pine – these trees should be more than 50 feet away from power lines.

Medium Trees

Birch, Serviceberry and Honey Locust – these trees, which grow to a height of 40 feet or less, should be planted at least 20 feet from power lines.

Small Trees

Dogwood, Flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Purple Leaf Plum and Japanese Red Maple – these trees, which grow slowly and to no higher than 25 feet, are recommended for areas close to power lines.

To learn more, visit the Arbor Day Web site at arborday.org.

Cool Down Your Electric Bill

As the weather gets warmer, most of us will be using air conditioning to keep cool. That means you'll be using more electricity. Fortunately you can control your usage—and save money in the process. To better manage your electric bill, follow these tips:

- Make sure your air conditioner is in good working order. Have it checked by a professional technician. Also, change the filter monthly when in use.
- If you are in the market for a new unit, purchase a high-efficiency model that is ENERGY STAR® qualified.
- Set your thermostat between 75 and 78 degrees, a generally comfortable range. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you can save 5 percent on your monthly bill.
- Never place lamps, televisions or other appliances close to an air conditioner. The heat they generate can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

- Keep draperies, blinds and shades down during the day to minimize heat and sunlight entering your home.

- Keep furniture or other objects from blocking vents.

To learn more about conserving energy visit our Web site, delmarva.com.

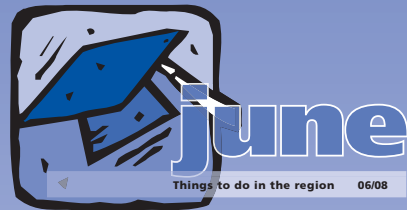
In Your Community...



Public Affairs Manager Enid Wallace-Simms and Customer Outreach Specialist George Cook discuss energy conservation with customers at Christiana Mall in Newark, Delaware.

Pledge to Change the World

Delmarva Power is asking customers to help save energy and reduce the risk of global climate change. Log on to delmarva.com and take the pledge to replace at least one light in your home with an ENERGY STAR® qualified bulb.



Delaware (Area code 302)

Jun 2: Berry Festival: A Kick-Off Celebration of Summer; 401 N. West St., Wilm.; 652-4491, www.wilmingtonfriendsmeeting.org

Jun 7: Bethany Beach Seaside Craft Show; Boardwalk, Bethany Beach; www.townofbethanybeach.com

Jun 15: Creek Kids: Fathers & Sons at Hagley; Hagley Museum & Library, Rt 141, Wilm.; 658-2400, www.hagley.org

June 22,23: Chautauqua Tent Show; Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes; http://history.delaware.gov/museums/zm/zm_main.shtml

Maryland (Area code 410)

Jun 14-15, Bayshore Discovery Project's Bay Days; Bivalve; 856-785-2060, www.bayshorediscoveryproject.org

Jun 20,21: Delmarva Chicken Festival; The Centre at Salisbury, Salisbury; 800-878-2449, dpi@dpicken.com

Jun 21: A Garden Affair: QAC Master Gardeners Open House Exhibition; Queen Anne's County Library, Wright's House, Centreville; 410-758-0166, nhoppe@umd.edu

Jun 25: FUNday at Playland Castaway Cove Community Quest, Inc. Benefit; 10th & Boardwalk, Ocean City; 609-646-0388, www.boardwalkfun.com

FOR MORE THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION, Visit: www.delmarva.com

Click on "Community & Environment" on our Web site: www.delmarva.com. To include a future event either in Lines or online, fax to: 302-283-6095, or send an e-mail to Lines@delmarva.com.

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than three million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equal to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.