

Guy wires play a critical role in community safety

GUY WIRES ARE TENSIONED CABLES ATTACHED TO UTILITY POLES, RADIO TOWERS, TENTS, AND OTHER TALL STRUCTURES TO HELP KEEP THEM STABLE.

They are typically anchored in the ground and attached to utility poles to help support the structure against the constant pull of power lines.

If a guy wire is loose, bent, or cut, it can compromise the stability of the entire pole. In some cases, that could lead to leaning poles, sagging lines, power outages, or injuries.

Yellow covers, called guy guards, are often found near the bottom of guy wires to make them easier to see so people don't accidentally walk or drive into them.

REMEMBER THESE GUIDELINES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Don't attach anything to a guy wire
Signs, decorations, pet leashes, and sports equipment can strain the wire or the anchor over time.

Be careful when mowing, trimming, or digging nearby
Hitting a guy wire with lawn equipment can damage it and create a safety hazard. If you are planning a project such as planting a tree or installing a fence, give the guy wires plenty of space. Call 811 if you plan on digging on your property.

Remind children not to play on or around guy wires
They may look like fun to climb, but they aren't designed for play.

Speak up if something looks wrong
If you notice a guy wire that's loose, damaged, or disconnected from the ground, contact your local electric cooperative to have it checked by a professional.

At your electric cooperative, safety is always a priority. By staying aware of guy wires and respecting their purpose, we can all help keep our communities safe.