

August 2021



Back to School Safety



Avoid Utility Scams



Don't Overload Plugs

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY BASICS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

As children head back to school, parents can teach them a valuable, potentially life-saving lesson: to respect electricity.

Here are five electrical safety basics every child should know:

1. Mixing water and electricity can harm you. Teach children not to use electrical toys or other devices near water or in the rain.
2. Electrical outlets have limits. Plugging multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip can create sparks and even cause a fire if that outlet can't handle the load. Teach kids to plug into surge-protected power strips or to use one device at a time and unplug the rest.
3. When they unplug those devices, they should grab them by the plug, not the cord. Yanking a cord out of an electrical outlet can damage the appliance, the outlet or the plug, leaving the appliance or toy unable to operate safely.
4. Climbing trees and flying kites or other remote-controlled toys or drones are never safe activities near power lines. If a



tree has a power line running through it—or if it's even within reach of the line—that's not a safe place to play. If a kite gets caught in a power line, the child should not tug on it to get it loose. The string could conduct electricity and seriously hurt the child.

5. Electrical substations are fenced off to keep children and pets out. If a toy or small pet gets inside of the fence, the child should tell a parent or teacher, who can call a trained worker to come and retrieve it.

## AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for members to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

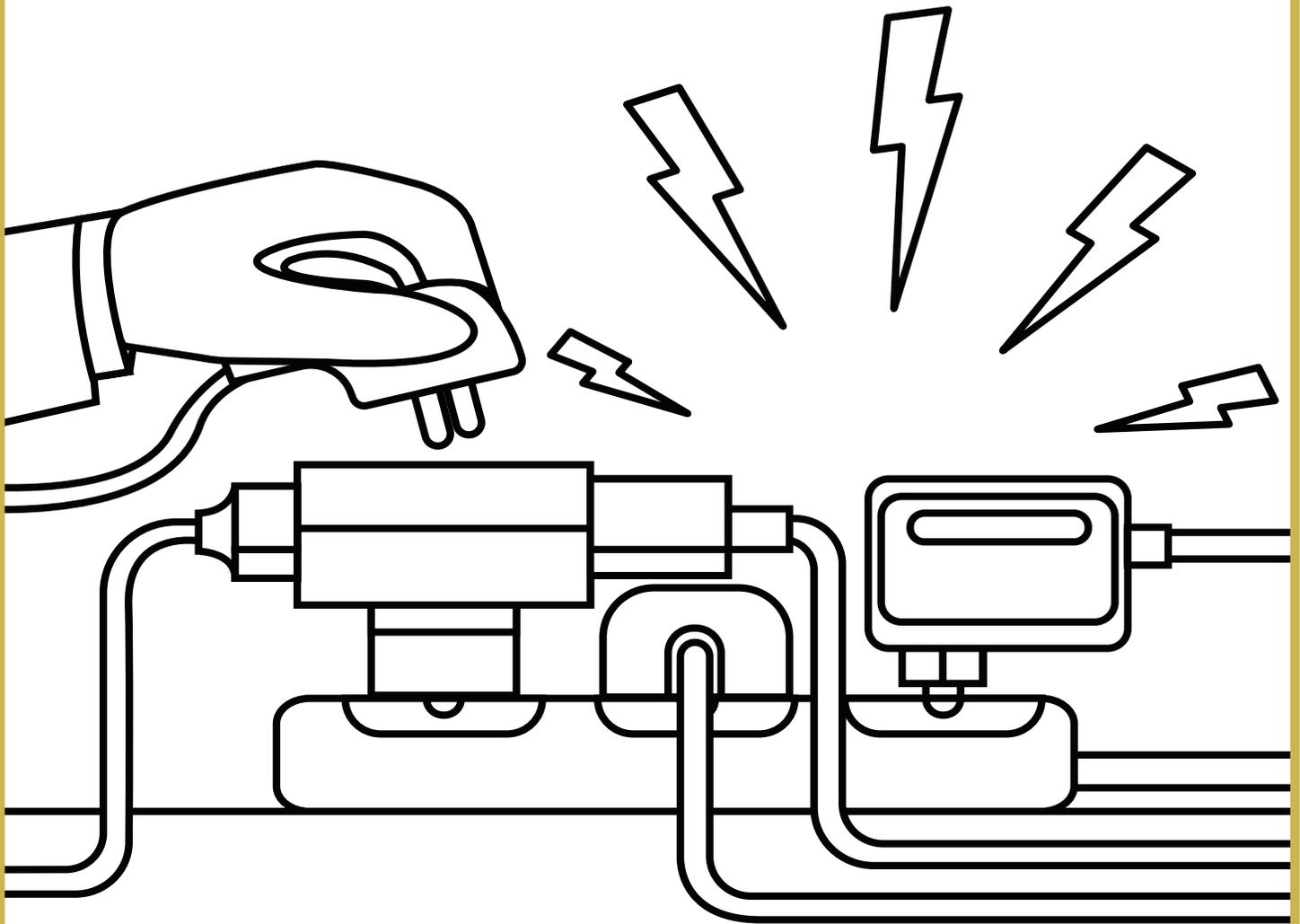
- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate

payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.

- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Nolin RECC or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 270-765-6153 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to us so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.

# DON'T Overload Outlets



**Never overload your home's electrical outlets or circuits. It could prevent a fire and save lives!**