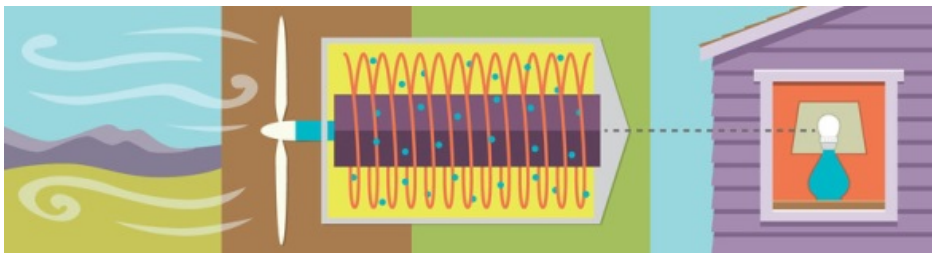


Electricity 101

An electrical current is produced when magnets rotate within copper coils. This is at the heart of every electric generator. To make the magnet, or “rotor,” spin inside the stationary coil of copper, power companies use steam, wind or the force of water.



Fundamental facts of electric safety

At every step of the way, from generation to transmission to the line that serves your home or business, PGE’s system is designed to ensure electric safety. But keep these electricity basics in mind to stay safe.

Electricity is always seeking a path to ground or earth. If you become part of that path to ground, you are in danger.

Electricity travels best through conductors. The best conductors are metal, like copper and aluminum. Water is an excellent conductor, as is anything containing lots of water, like trees, people or animals. High- and low-voltage electricity can cause serious injury or death.

Electric currents can “jump” from power lines to nearby conductors, like trees branches within 10 feet or ladders accidentally moved near a line.

For more safety tips, visit PortlandGeneral.com/Safety.



Electric Safety Myth:

Power lines are insulated ... so what's the problem touching them?

Fact:

Not all power lines are insulated.

The overhead wires you typically see on city streets and neighborhoods at the top of the poles are usually bare wire.

Wires called “service drops,” which carry power from the pole to your home, are often insulated. But insulation can wear off, and you should always treat them — and any power line — as dangerous.