



JULY 2023

IDAHO FALLS
POWER

Summer Planting & Utilities

Summer is finally here, and many of us are excited to get outside and enjoy the warm weather working in our yards and gardens planting trees, flowers, and shrubs. There's nothing more beautiful than a well maintained, colorful yard full of flowers and trees. They add interest and value to your home and variety to the neighborhood.

Before you start planting, Idaho Falls Power (IFP) urges residents to carefully plan ahead.

Utility companies – including electric, water, and sewer – spend millions of dollars annually maintaining or removing hazardous or potentially hazardous trees and shrubs. This is part of maintaining overhead and underground utility infrastructure for safety and reliability, while preventing damage.

Often the problem is trees touching power lines. This may cause power interruptions, or worse, lead to electrocution of people touching the plants. Broken branches and wind-blown trees also damage utility lines, causing hazardous situations and service loss.

The problems aren't restricted to overhead utility infrastructure. Roots can damage service lines. Trees or shrubs planted too close to meters, transformers, and other utility units may prevent people from seeing them, increasing the risk of human injury and damage to property and utilities. It also creates problems for utility workers who need to read or service equipment.

Much of this can be avoided with the help of residents.

When planting, consider where you're planting and what you're planting. It's a great idea to consult a local arborist, garden nursery, or utility. They're more than happy to help you make plant selections that will benefit your yard and not cause problems with utilities.

Here are some helpful tips to help you plan your landscape.

- Consider mature height of trees. The IFP website, www.ifpower.org, has a list of recommended trees. All other trees are prohibited from being planted under, or within 20 lateral feet of, any overhead line. Trees are also prohibited above, or within five lateral feet of, any underground water line, sewer line, electric transmission or distribution line, or other utility.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. As mentioned, tree roots interfere with underground infrastructure. Future repairs to these facilities could cause damage to the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees, or even require their removal. Local utilities are not responsible for the replacement of damaged or removed trees and shrubs.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers, or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call Digline at 8-1-1. Locators will come out free of charge to mark all underground utilities. This will help you avoid accidental contact, damage, and/or injuries.



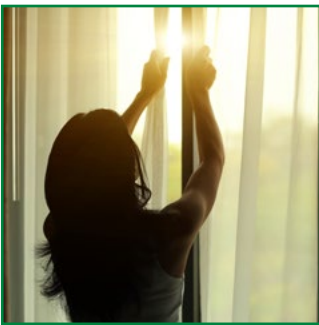
Tips to save energy in the heat

As we approach the higher temperatures of the summer months, air conditioners can place a strain on the electric infrastructure. Additional demand on the power not only strains electrical, but places power at a higher demand, leading to higher energy costs in the energy markets.

To stay cool, but save on energy costs consider the following:

- Use fans to circulate air in your home. Even with an air conditioner, fans help circulate the air to keep your home cooler.
- Close curtains and blinds during the day to keep out sunlight.
- Replace old incandescent light bulbs with new LED bulbs.
- Open windows at night to circulate cooler air and let hot air dissipate.
- Turn off and unplug unused appliances and electronics.
- Plant shade trees to lower the temperature inside your home.
- Keep lights off as much as possible.
- Cook meals outdoors on a grill or use a microwave. Avoid using the stove or oven, which add heat to your home.
- Seal doors and windows. Gaps let heat in and cool air escape.
- Check and replace air filters to allow more air flow and to optimize energy usage.
- Upgrade your thermostat. New, smart thermostats can more accurately and effectively optimize indoor temperatures and energy usage.
- Check your insulation. Poorly insulated homes are harder to cool in the summer and heat in the winter.

If you are interested in an energy consultation, or any of our energy efficiency program loans and rebates, please call our office at 208-612-8430.



For more information please contact us at:

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