

Stay Away from Power Lines When Picking Fruit or Trimming Trees

*Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 5/24/17* – Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) urges residents to use caution when picking fruit or trimming trees near overhead power lines.

Recently there have been incidents around the state that have resulted in injury and death from people picking fruit near powerlines. We want our members to be safe and avoid injuries.

When trimming your trees or picking fruit, be aware of the power lines that may be close to trees. Don't try to trim a tree close to a power line. Call a professional tree trimmer or arborist.

Please remember the following safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings before using any metal tools, poles or ladders.
- Look up and around for power lines before starting any harvesting or trimming. Lines can be hidden in the branches of large trees. If any part of the tree is touching overhead power lines, the tree can become energized and a potential hazard.
- Always keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. This includes ladders, pickers, saws, clippers and any other tools that you may use to pick fruits or trim trees.
- Never trim trees that have power lines going through them.
- Keep metallic balloons, kites, antennas and flying toys away from power lines. They can cause outages if they become tangled in the line.
- If you see any object caught in a power line, assume the line is energized and do not attempt to free it yourself. Call the 24-hour KIUC trouble call line at 246.8200.

Don't just look up; underground utilities can also be a risk when you're digging and planting trees. To be certain that you do not accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call the Hawaii One Call Center, at least five days before you dig at 1.866.432.7287. Never assume that utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig.

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