

# Safety Trailer Helps Teach RESPECT for Electricity

*(Remember Electric Safety: Practice Everything Communicated Today)*

Stay away from downed power lines. Keep ladders a safe distance from overhead lines. Call before digging. It's one thing for people to *hear* such safety messages from OPPD. But the impact is much greater when people *see* what can happen if they don't treat electricity with respect.

A team of OPPD safety professionals and line technicians offers brief presentations that emphatically demonstrate the importance of electrical safety. The team uses its RESPECT safety trailer, equipped with an energized power line, to:

- Show how a tree limb that contacts a power line can conduct electricity
- Demonstrate how a ladder, antenna, irrigation pipe and other metal objects can conduct electrical current
- Simulate digging into an underground line
- Show the results of animal contacts with electrical equipment
- Emphasize the importance of keeping a safe distance from power lines



Using rubber gloves and insulated hot sticks for protection, OPPD line technicians make contact with a 7,200-volt line with one end of a metal rod (representing a ladder) and direct the other end into a box built into the trailer. The resulting electric current cooks a hot dog wired between two cowboy boots, which represents a person.

## Safety Presentations:

- Can be tailored for any age group (plus, a safety video is available for youth)
- Recommended for groups of 100 or more people located within OPPD's service area
- Last about 20 minutes, with another 10-15 minutes for Q&As
- Feature a trailer that is 20' long x 6' wide x 12' high
- Require 208-volt or 240-volt feed (or OPPD will bring a generator)
- Requires ground space for grounding rod for generator.
- Need to be scheduled at least four weeks in advance. *OPPD does not schedule demonstrations from November 30 through April 1.*
- Can be arranged by calling OPPD Consumer Relations at (402) 636-3747