

**TOWN OF RICHLANDS**  
**200 WASHINGTON SQUARE**  
**RICHLANDS, VA 24641**  
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**UTILITY EMPLOYEE SAFETY**

- 1) A clear, safe area is required around the electric meter base and the water meter pit for reading, maintenance and repair. The meter services should never be built around, enclosed or covered in any way. If structural changes, new structures, additions, roadway or driveway changes, or landscaping are to be made that will affect the electric or water meter services contact the utility company prior to work being performed so the service can be safely relocated as needed.
- 2) Safety is an important part of utility services. Hidden dangers are present under snow and leaves. Objects such as yard equipment, water hoses, toys and tools can become invisible once they are covered with a layer of leaves or a few inches of snow. It is important to check your yard for these items before the leaves fall and before a heavy snowfall. This will help keep your family and utility employees safe from a potentially dangerous accident.
- 3) Use extreme caution in moving ladders, scaffolds, cranes and booms near power lines. Treat chain link fences, rails and other metals with caution. Contact between energized lines and one of these items could result in death or serious injury to anyone near or touching these objects.
- 4) Never place swimming pools under or near power lines.
- 5) Never play on or climb trees near or in power lines. The tree may provide a path for power to follow, especially when wet.
- 6) Never play on or near poles or guy wires attached to poles or other electrical equipment as they may become energized.
- 7) Never ground other equipment or devices to the metering equipment. This could create a hazardous condition for utility employees or other individuals.
- 8) Transformers, meter bases, connection pedestals and any other electrical equipment should always be treated with respect. They contain energized lines that could pose a possibility of death or serious injury if not dealt with properly.
- 9) Clear and maintain the right of way for the utility service. A clear area should always be maintained around power poles, transformers, fire hydrants and metering equipment. Trees and shrubs should never be placed beneath the electric service drop or near the electric meter base. Trees and shrubs should never be planted in such a manner as to create a problem with the water meter service pit. A clear area is needed for reading and maintenance of the water meter service. Service personal shall be permitted free and safe access at all reasonable hours to the

premises for the purpose of installing, reading, testing, and removing meters or other utility owned equipment. Maintain the meter location such that it is out of the way of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and is easily accessible without damage to property or risk of personal injury.

- 10) Only authorized personnel shall perform work on the water meter and lines in the meter pit. The water meter cover should never be left off of the meter service. This creates a hazardous condition that could result in serious injury. In the winter months a missing or loose cover may result in frozen or damaged pipes or meters resulting in interruption of service.
- 11) Only power company employees may perform disconnection of service entrance equipment from the service wires. Customers or their electricians must not attempt this or any subsequent reconnection. Only power company employees shall cut the seal or remove the electric meter from the socket. Contact the power company prior to any work being performed involving the meter service.
- 12) Antennas, lead-in conductors and guys shall not be attached to the service mast or to poles or similar structures carrying electrical conductors. It is recommended that any antenna be installed at least one and one half times its height away from our lines.