

Right-of-Way Maintenance

Primary Lines

CHELCO's responsibility is to ensure the protection of its primary lines, which typically go alongside the road and are often located on or near property lines. CHELCO's wholly-owned subsidiary, Southland Utility Services, trims any living plant growth growing near primary lines and clears the debris. They also cut down dead trees near the primary line, but do not remove the debris.

Service Lines

Service lines run between the power pole and the member's home. It is the member's responsibility to cut down trees and other growth near the service line, but we will happily take the line down and put it back up after the work is done. If a limb or tree is displacing the service line 4 inches or more, CHELCO will cut the tree limb away from the line, but will not remove the debris. CHELCO will repair the service line if a tree or limb causes damage. We do not obtain easements for the service line.

What is the right-of-way?

The right-of-way is the easement where CHELCO places its power poles and lines. Southland cuts 15 feet on each side of the power line.

Where can I plant trees so they do not interfere with the lines?

Small and medium trees (under 40 ft. at maturity) should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines. Large trees (over 40 ft. at maturity) should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines.

It's also important to keep plants at least 10 feet away from underground equipment. Call 811 at least two business days before planting so underground equipment can be marked.

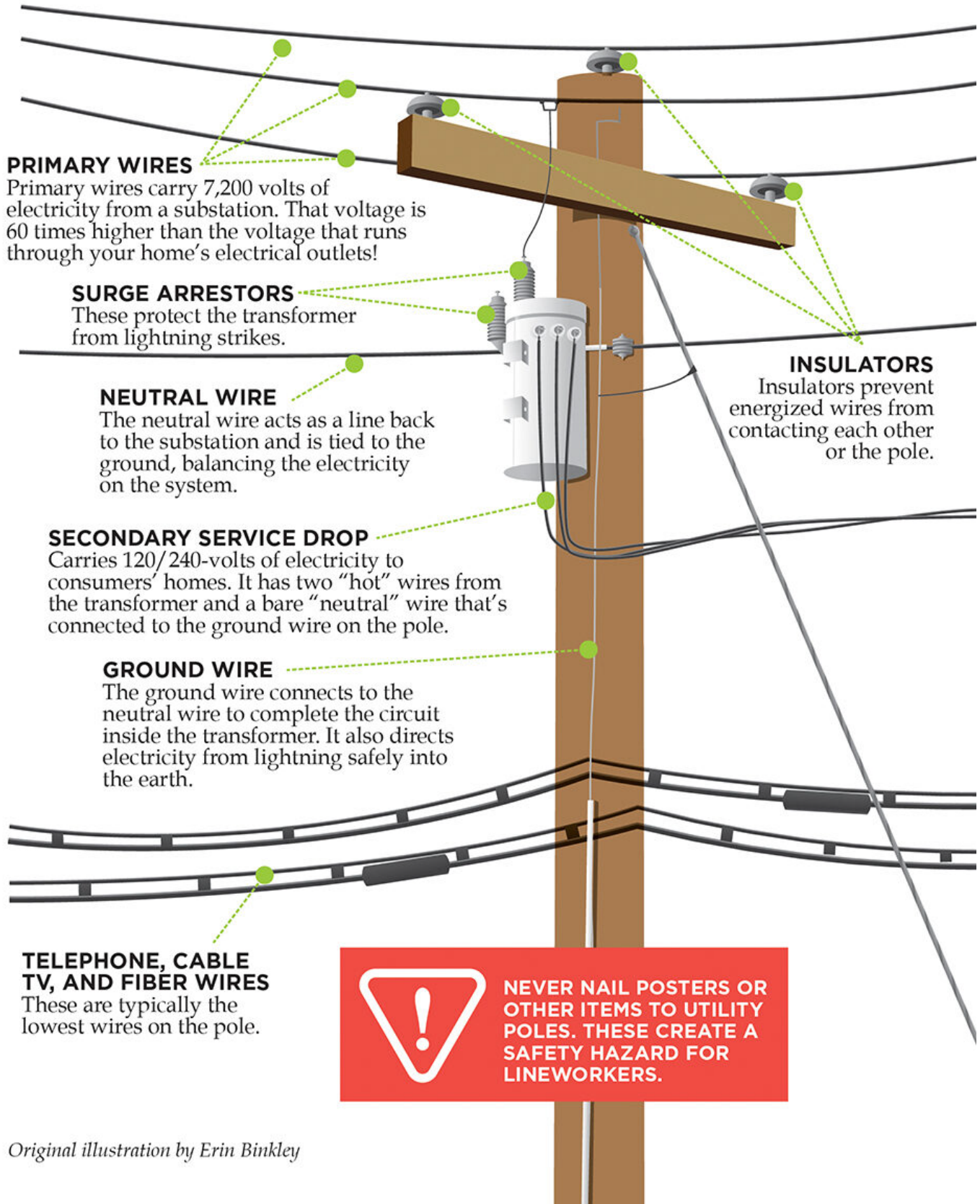
What is an easement?

An easement is a designated parcel of land that gives utility companies the right to access their equipment, such as power lines and poles.

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WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley