

I Spy . . . Something Brown

Remember the game "I Spy" as your vehicle rumbled over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house? So, let's play the game now.

I spy something . . . brown, tall, wooden, with no leaves and clean.

Is it a tree in winter, a sign post, a fence post? Nope – it's not any of those. However, if you guessed a power pole then pat yourself on the back for you ARE smarter than a 5th grader!

Yet, did any of the words stump you (no pun intended)? Hmm, I get "brown"; I get "tall and wooden"; I get "with no leaves." But, what does she mean by "clean?" You see, our power poles have a purpose – to support our overhead power lines. And, all that hardware belongs on there for a reason – to safely distribute the power to your home.

Yet, there may be times when we need to changeout something on the system for repair or upgrade and our lineworkers will need to climb the pole. Climbing safely takes a special skill and obstacles on the poles create additional hazards. Where there are hazards, there can be injuries. It's just not safe for our lineworkers to climb them. And, it's not safe for you either if you get too close to this equipment when you are placing these obstacles on the poles.

So, let's gobble up some more safety knowledge and review what our power poles are NOT:

- A power pole is NOT a great place to put your deer stand.
- A power pole is NOT another feature on your land for you to decorate (with the witch flying through one, etc.).
- A power pole is NOT a fence post for which to attach your fencing.
- A power pole is NOT a place to put your no trespassing sign or other signs.
- A power pole is NOT part of the frame of your new building.

I think you get the point. Keeping the power poles "clean" is safer for you and safer for our lineworkers, who are your neighbors, your friends and maybe even your family.

And, isn't that what we all want . . . to be able to go home tonight after a safe day on the job, to our families, and give thanks.

