



DPU Scoop



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SAFETY SERIES

Home Component Safety Series: Electrical Panels and Wires

Over the next six months, we'll be exploring major components that might be a part of your home and the safety considerations you should keep in mind for each. This month focuses on electrical panels and home wiring. Any concerns or work on panels and wiring should be performed by qualified electricians.

Electrical systems have evolved significantly over time and we have all types here in Los Alamos.

Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices to help prevent overloading your system. When the breaker flips or the fuse blows, your system is working as it should to shut down that current. However, your electrical system won't function as intended if incorrect breakers or fuses were installed.

For safety's sake, call a licensed electrician for these issues:

- Loose or broken breakers or fuses
- Warm outlet or switch plates
- Reliance on extension cords in every room
- Knob and tube wiring
- Patchwork electrical systems
- Aluminum wiring
- Ungrounded outlets
- Panel size under 60 amps

Learn more about your home electrical system by searching for #HomeWiring on the Electrical Safety Foundation International website (esfi.org)



Installation	Type	Common panel sizes
Pre-1960s	fuse boxes	30 amp — 100 amp
1960s — now	breaker panels	60 amp — 200 amp (commonly) 200 amp — 400 amp (newer)
Present — future	smart panels	100 amp — 400 amp



Stay safe around mountain lions this winter

Winter in Los Alamos County means cooler weather—and more active MOUNTAIN LIONS. These big cats are most on the move at dawn and dusk as they follow their hunting instincts. Living in mountain lion country means taking a few extra steps to stay safe.

Make your yard less appealing. Remove food sources and trim back vegetation that provides hiding spots.

Supervise children. Don't leave children alone outdoors. Keep the kiddos inside before dawn and make sure they are home before dusk.

Protect pets. Supervise pets outdoors—especially at night. When they need to go out, use a leash or secure enclosure and keep it brief.

Light the way. Motion-sensor lights help you—and any nearby wildlife—avoid surprises

Stick to trails. Staying on established paths is safer for you and the wildlife.

Steer clear of carcasses. If you come across one, call NM Game and Fish at (505) 412-8796.

Be aware of your surroundings. If you see a mountain lion, make noise, stay calm, and back away slowly. Never run.

Be big! Raise your arms or spread your jacket to appear larger.

When necessary, defend yourself. If attacked, fight back with whatever you can—rocks, sticks, backpacks, or your hands.



To learn more about living with wildlife on the Pajarito Plateau, visit www.lacnm.com/wildlife

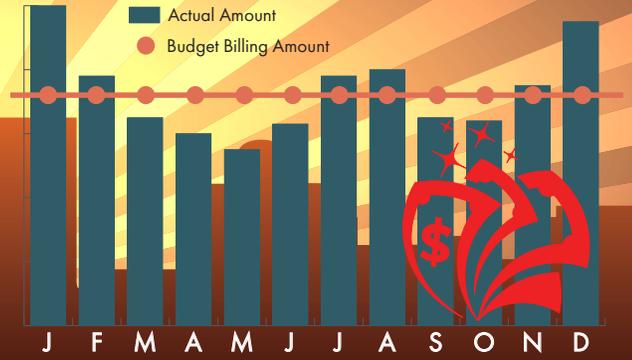
BE A BUDGET HERO



MORE INFO:
<https://ladpu.com/BBilling>
 (505) 662-8333
 CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov

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DO YOU RELY ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?

The DPU maintains a voluntary medical equipment alert program for customers who use life-sustaining, electrically powered, medical equipment for the preservation of health or life. This list helps us to identify individuals with special notification requirements of planned utility outages and assists us in prioritizing repairs for unplanned outages.

We attempt to provide special notification above normal notification procedures to registered community members when a planned power interruption is scheduled.

Although we work hard to maintain and improve the reliability of the electric system, we cannot guarantee that a power outage will never occur. It is the responsibility of the caregiver to have a backup system and/or a plan of action in the event of a power outage.

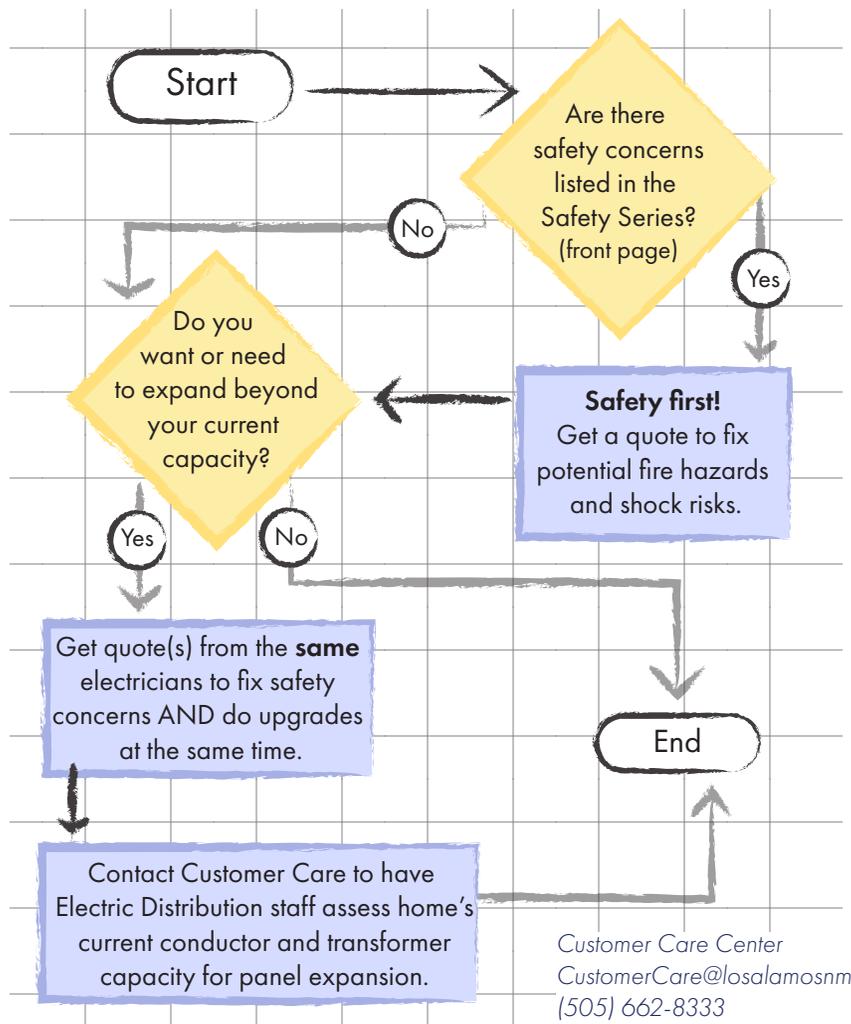
We ask that those who are registered re-enroll once a year so that we can keep the list current. After a year, customers who do not re-enroll are removed from the list.



If you would like to register yourself or a member of your household, please contact the Customer Care Center at (505) 662-8333 or CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov, OR register online at ladpu.com/medequip.

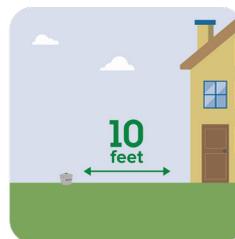
Is it time to replace parts of your home electric system?

Replacing or upgrading parts of your electrical system is no small matter, whether it's wiring, electrical panels, or both. Follow below for some insight.



An important reminder from the Los Alamos Fire Department

Never put fireplace ashes straight into your trash can or roll cart! Put them into a metal bucket, place it at least 10 feet from your home, and then spray the ashes with water to cool them down completely before you dispose of them.



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