



This SUV hit a utility pole hard enough to break it, knocking off its crossarms, bringing energized electrical lines down with it. What happened to the family inside? See below.

‘Lines Down!’ One Family’s Story

The letter brought tears to our eyes:

“Thanks to you guys, I got to go home and see my puppy. Also thanks to you guys, I got to have my 14th birthday. And I get to keep living.”

What caused such an extraordinary thank you letter to be written?

It was this past New Year’s Eve. Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Volunteer Duty Chief Liz Iabichello got a call: A mother and three children in a SUV had gone off a road, hitting a utility pole. Power lines were down.

When Liz arrived, she saw the family’s father had also rushed to the scene, and was calling down to his family, telling them to get out of the SUV. She immediately stopped him: “I was in a Central Lincoln class a few years ago – we were told to treat all downed lines as ‘hot’ or energized. I knew the family could be in danger, and I made sure he stayed back. Things got very tense; he wanted them out, and I knew they needed to stay in that SUV!”

Jason, a Central Lincoln serviceman, quickly arrived. With a hot stick (a lineman’s tool for working on energized lines) he carefully moved the lines off of the vehicle, allowing the mother and three kids to get out safely. “He told me, ‘had they tried to get out, and up to

the road, they wouldn’t have made it,’” Liz says.

“People can’t tell if a line is energized by looking at it,” explains Central Lincoln Safety Coordinator Cody Christian. “Please stay a minimum of 30 feet away from a downed line, and don’t drive underneath lines that are sagging low to the ground. If a line falls

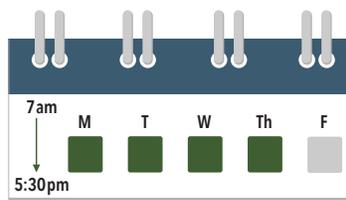
on your car, stay in the car until a utility worker arrives with the right equipment to handle the situation. If you try getting out of the car, you could be badly injured or even killed.”

The family’s middle child, a daughter, wrote the thank you letter.

We’re very thankful Liz was able to use what she’d learned in our class, saving the lives of this family. “Your trainings with emergency medical services and fire departments are priceless,” she writes. “I appreciate the work that you all do.”

Cody leads free electricity safety classes not only for emergency responders, but also for children’s and adult groups. Please email us at info@clpud.org to request a talk or class.

Extended Hours Start Monday, March 30



Mondays – Thursdays
7 am to 5:30 pm
(Closed Fridays)

To better serve you, our offices in Florence, Newport, and Reedsport will soon begin new hours: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, closed Fridays. Our customer service representatives will be answering your calls during our new hours as well. *(The Reedsport office will be closed 12:30- 1 pm.)*



While it might be tempting to camouflage an electrical box near your property, such as this switch stand box, or a transformer, we need to be able to access them, and to work on them.

Thinking of Doing Some Spring Planting? Not Too Close to Boxes, Please

When power's out, getting it back on safely and quickly for our customers is our top priority. So it can be a serious problem when our crew arrives, and finds a transformer surrounded by much-loved roses, or a tree or two, or even a fence that's built too close.

If you have a ground-mounted electrical box, please don't plant or build anything closer than ten feet in front of the box's doors, or three feet from its sides – we need that amount of space to access it. We may even have to disturb vegetation so we can work safely on our equipment. We want to avoid that whenever possible, so, please give our electrical boxes space when planting this spring.



Congress Approves Electric Car Charging Equipment Tax Credit for 2017-2020



A federal tax credit of 30% of the cost of installing EV charging equipment has been extended through December 31, 2020 – it had expired December 31, 2016. If you installed charging equipment after January 1, 2017 or if you install equipment before the end of this year, you may be eligible to claim this credit, up to \$1,000.

Central Lincoln also offers a rebate of up to \$250 for installation and/or purchase of an electric car charging station, and our program can be used in addition to receiving the federal credit. Purchase and installation of charging equipment *averages* about \$750 (depending on the cost of wiring in a 240V outlet in or near a garage or carport), so the two programs together could be very helpful to electric car drivers.

For IRS Form 8911:

www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-8911

Central Lincoln rebate information: go to clpud.org and click on the "Electric Cars" box at the bottom of the screen.

Buying electric car brands other than Chevrolet or Tesla may also qualify for a federal tax credit up to \$7,000. Details: www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-8936

Purchase or lease of a qualifying electric vehicle may also qualify for a state of Oregon Clean Fuel Rebate of up to \$2,500. More information: tinyurl.com/oregoncfr
Questions? Email us at info@clpud.org

Call us toll free at **1-877-265-3211** to report an outage, pay your bill, speak to a customer service representative and more. *Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport, or Reedsport.*

Pay By Phone: 1-844-239-0076

Report an Outage: 1-877-265-3211

Energy Efficiency Programs: 1-888-883-9879

Office Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **but... starting March 30, we'll have extended hours:**

Mondays-Thursday 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closed Fridays)

Florence: 966 Highway 101

Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway

Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Reedsport is closed 12-1 p.m.)

Starting March 30, the Reedsport office will be closed 12:30-1 p.m.

Mondays-Thursdays. (closed Fridays)

Website: clpud.org

Email: info@clpud.org

Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

 www.twitter.com/CLPUD

 [Central Lincoln PUD](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLincolnPUD)



Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.