

Safety Around Pad Mounted Transformers

Although most of our major electrical lines are underground, they are accessible above ground via Pad-Mounted Transformers. Pad-mounted transformers are those big green metal boxes found either in front or behind a number of our homes. These transformers change (“step down”) high electrical voltage to a lower voltage that is then routed underground to several homes around it. Not every house has them; one is needed for only about every six houses. In Tabb Lakes, we probably have over 70 of these transformers. Although they are safe, they can be a potential electrical hazard if damaged, tampered with, or left unlocked. Please follow some precautions if your property has one in your yard.



Stay Safe Around Transformers:

For your protection, avoid making contact with a pad-mounted transformer. Do not allow children to play on or near transformers. Respect the equipment by not opening or tampering with it.

Report Problems:

Immediately report unlocked or damaged transformers, such as leaking oil, struck by a car, or crushed by a tree after a major storm. Report any damaged transformer to Dominion Power or 911 immediately.

Always Allow Access to Transformers:

Be sure not to obstruct access to the transformer. Obstructions include fences, shrubs, trees, storage sheds, and so on. Each pad has warning signs and guidelines for space needed around the transformer. Any obstruction can:

- Create safety risks to the Dominion Power personnel trying to access the transformer
- Delay service restoration during power outages
- Cause problems during routine maintenance of equipment

Do not plant trees or allow trees to grow near a pad mounted transformer. Their roots could ultimately shift the transformers position over time.

Submitted by Lou Lafrenaye