

**LIBERTY UTILITIES - EMPIRE DISTRICT
OFFERS TIPS FOR MISSOURI ARBOR DAY**

JOPLIN, MO – April 6, 2018 – Missouri Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the first Friday in April. Arbor Day is a time to plant, celebrate, and care for trees, which coincides with spring, a popular tree-planting season.

As we mark Missouri Arbor Day, Liberty - Empire reminds customers to plant the right tree in the right place. When sited properly, trees offer environmental benefits by reducing energy consumption, and improve electric service reliability by avoiding conflicts with utility lines. Before planting, consider these tips:

- Call 811 to have utility lines marked before digging.
- Consider the height and spread of the tree at maturity. Ensure it would not encroach within 10 feet of powerlines.
- Site deciduous trees on the south and west side of your home for shade in the summer.
- Site evergreen trees to provide a wind break, but avoid blocking winter sunlight.

In recognition of Missouri Arbor Day, members of Liberty - Empire's Vegetation Management team will assist with a tree-planting event at noon on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Will Norton Miracle League Field in Joplin. For more tree planting tips, visit www.empiredistrict.com/vegetation.

For the ninth consecutive year, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Liberty - Empire as a Tree Line USA Utility for following practices that protect and enhance American's urban forests. To receive this special designation, the company follows quality tree care standards, provides annual worker training and participates in tree planting, public education, and tree-based energy conservation efforts.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, Empire District is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire District, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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