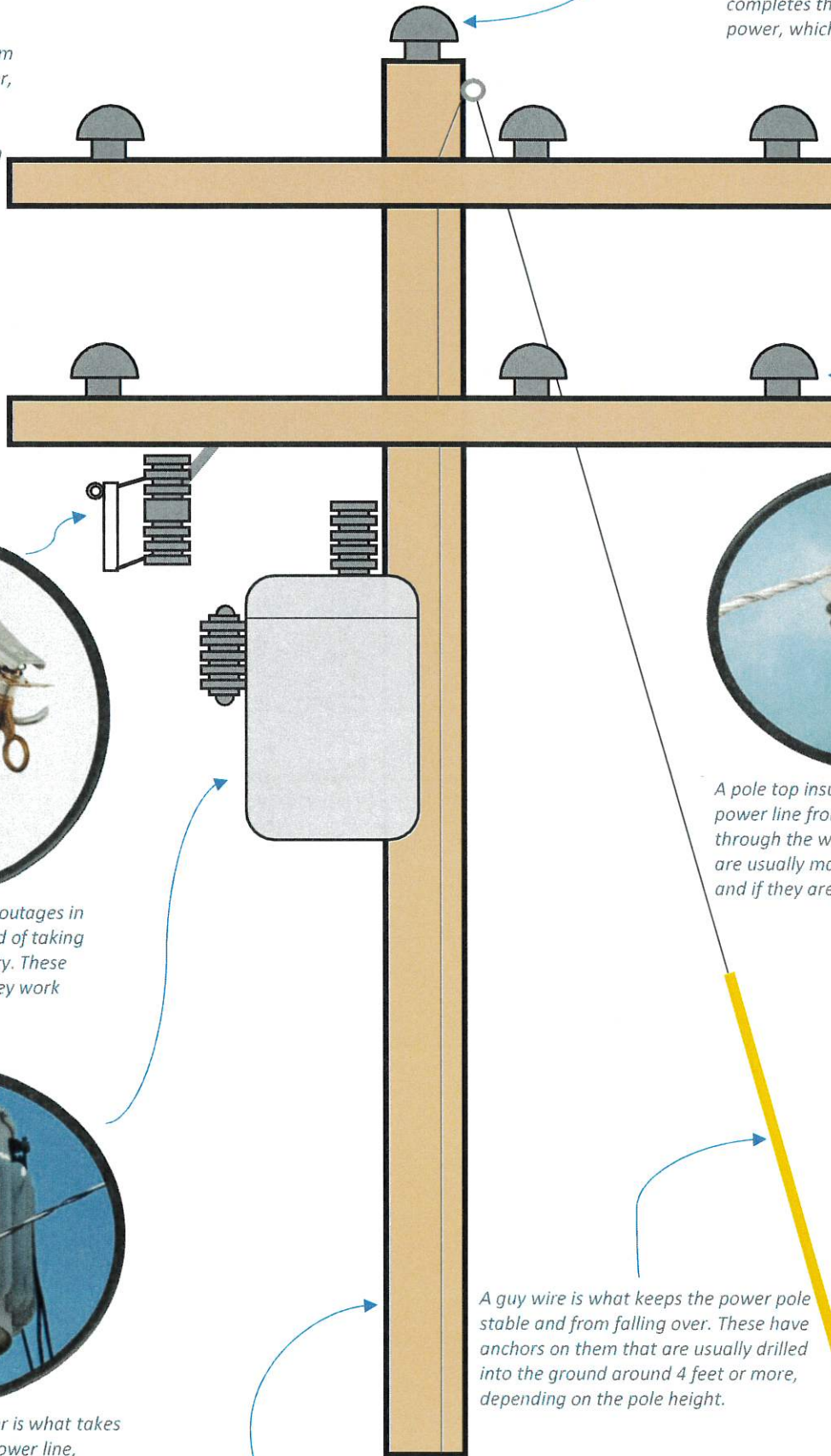


Power line cable used to be made of copper, but has since been switched out with aluminum cable due its availability, weight, and weather resistance. Aluminum is less conductive than copper, so that is why the aluminum cables have to be thicker to compensate! Power lines can carry anywhere from 7,000 to 115,000 Volts!

Sitting atop the power pole is the neutral wire. Electricity needs to form a circuit in order to work, and this cable is what completes the circuit back to the source of power, which is the sub station.



A fuse cutout is what keeps outages in small neighborhoods instead of taking out larger portions of the city. These make a loud BANG when they work correctly.



A pole top insulator is what keeps the power line from conducting electricity through the wooden power pole. These are usually made of rubber or porcelain, and if they are old enough, glass!



A pole-mounted transformer is what takes the high voltage from the power line, (usually around 13,000 Volts) and transforms it down to the voltage seen in your home (120 Volts). These are also usually equipped with a lightning arrester, which protects the transformer from lightning strikes.

A guy wire is what keeps the power pole stable and from falling over. These have anchors on them that are usually drilled into the ground around 4 feet or more, depending on the pole height.

Our power poles are made from Douglas Fir trees due to their strength, durability, and the fact that they are virtually free of knots, which would cause weak spots. Most poles are buried around 6 feet in the ground to give them the needed stability!