



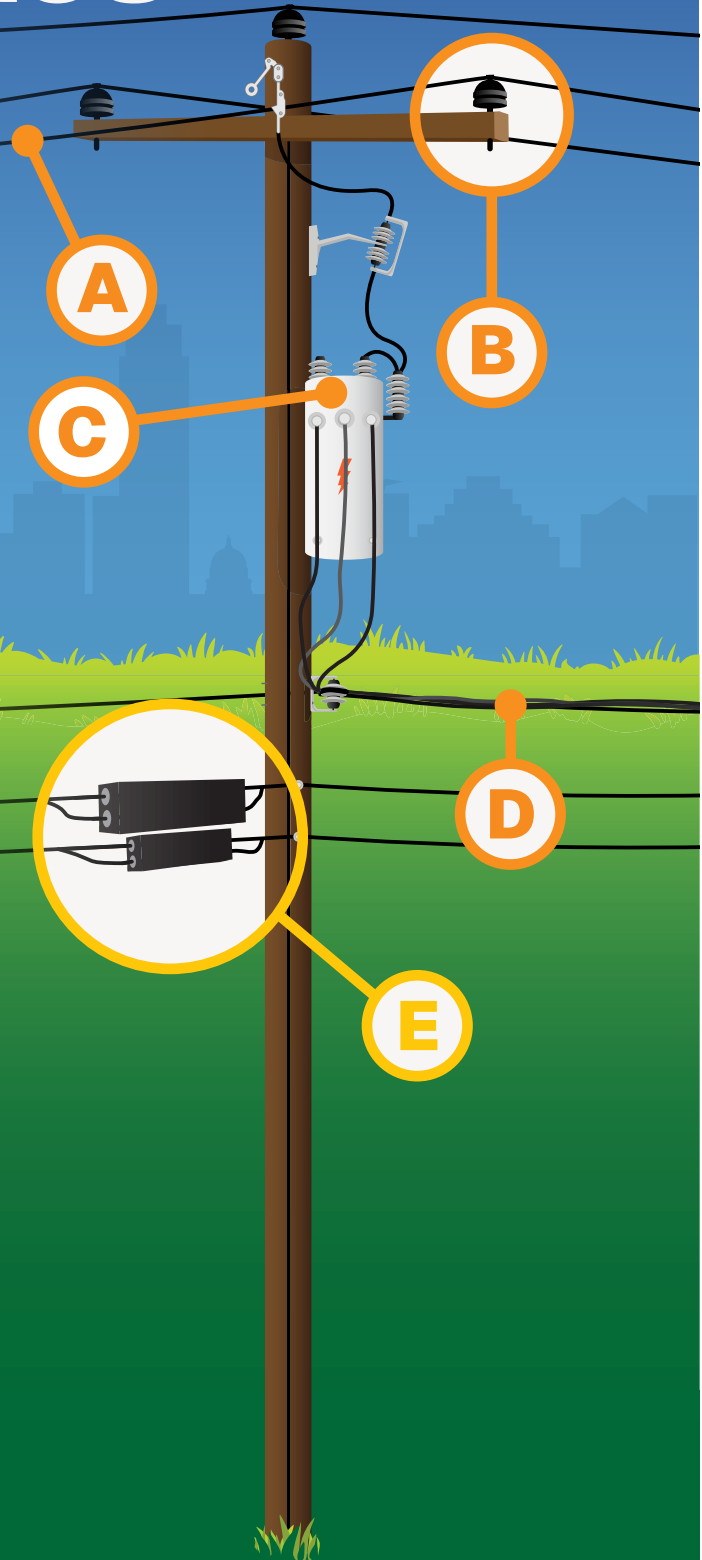
# What's What on Utility Poles



With more than 12,200 miles of power lines and more than 160,000 power poles, there's a good chance the utility poles you see around the area are managed and maintained by Austin Energy. Though the utility operates the electrical equipment at the top of poles, not everything attached there falls under Austin Energy's responsibility.

-  **ORANGE** — managed and maintained by Austin Energy.
-  **YELLOW** — managed and maintained by communications providers.

-  **A Primary wires** are generally attached on top of the utility pole and carry high-voltage power from the substation to the community.
-  **B Insulators** hold the energized wires in place, preventing the wires from contacting the pole or structure.
-  **C Transformers** convert the high voltage from the primary wires to lower voltage for use by residents and businesses.
-  **D Secondary wires** carry the lower-voltage power and connect it to homes and businesses.
-  **E Telephone, cable and fiber lines** — communications lines — are typically the lowest wires on a utility pole. Though these are often attached to Austin Energy poles, the utility does not maintain or trim trees around this equipment. **Communication service providers are responsible for maintaining their equipment and poles.**



This illustration shows a standard utility pole and is provided for illustrative purposes only.