

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

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A Little Spring Cleaning

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

March is here, and I am hopeful that it will be the start of some beautiful Spring weather. The old saying is that March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. However, with the inconsistent weather in western Pennsylvania, it can be more like lamb to lion, lion to lion, lamb to lamb, or anything in between. As I write this, we are wrapping up one of the coldest and snowiest Januarys in nearly 30 years, and as a result, almost anything will feel a little lamb-like.

I bring up the especially cold and snowy winter because it often leads to cabin fever, and even the slightest improvement in the weather has everyone eager to throw on shorts and get outside. As the weather changes, it impacts how we safely perform our work and that starts with the identification of hazards. March in Pennsylvania has the unique possibility of still having all the ice and snow hazards from the Winter as well as the wind, rain, and mud of the Spring. The nicer weather means we are all going to start those spring rituals like planting gardens or doing some spring cleaning at home. Let me remind you that the electric lines are still there, and

you should be extra cautious around them, especially after the harsh winter weather. Facilities may have experienced damage that, although not resulting in a loss of power, may create hazardous conditions.

Today’s article is meant to remind all of us that we need to be more aware and alert as we venture out into nicer weather so that we can enjoy it. As you start that yard cleanup project, you may find downed tree limbs from winter storms or, worse yet, damage to electric facilities on or around your property. We have several educational programs designed to help you stay safe and know how to act in the case of an emergency. These programs are particularly valuable during these changing seasons. Each month, our newsletter offers helpful safety tips. For this month’s advice, make sure to dive into this issue for another exciting installment of Safety Matters. Central Electric also offers an electric safety program, called Safety City, that we present to elementary level classes throughout our service territory. This program is well received as electric utilities across the country provide similar presentations. Sometimes we busy adults get complacent and don’t pay attention to the excellent lessons illustrated in the presentation.

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However, every accident depicted in the presentation has unfortunately happened to someone. They are common activities that have led to accidents and injuries simply because the victim wasn't paying attention to the potential hazard of electrical contact. Whenever I give these presentations, I start by emphasizing to everyone how great electricity is, but I remind them too that it is only a positive source when used correctly and safely. We also provide an annual First Responder's Training. Police, fire, and ambulance personnel throughout our service territory are provided with a demonstration and classroom experience regarding electric safety as it relates to their work. This training can be tailored to all audiences. If you are interested in scheduling and would like more information, please contact CEC at 1-800-521-0570 or visit our website.

The good news is that most electrical contact accidents can be easily avoided. If you are going to be digging call 1-800-242-1776 or 811. With just one call, all involved utilities will come to mark the location of their underground facilities so that you can avoid them. This is the most difficult safety measure to enforce as it is often overlooked. When climbing ladders or doing any work that is above your head, simply look up and look out for wires. It may seem like common sense but the more time that has passed between the last time you climbed that ladder and now, the easier it is to forget necessary safety steps. As always, treat any downed line as live. Unlike in the movies, energized lines don't always jump around creating sparks and noises. In fact, they are usually quiet and still. A good rule of thumb is that if you cannot see both ends of a wire, consider it live.

We work around electricity every day so electrical safety is first, second and third on our minds. For those who don't work with electricity every day, the employees of your Cooperative want to remind you to put electrical safety at the top of your Spring-cleaning list.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Matthew P. Boshaw	<i>CEO & General Manager</i>
Chester Conti	<i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i>
Lisa A. Hoover	<i>Director of Member Services</i>
Christopher W. Kossman	<i>Director of Information Technology</i>
Fred E. Terwilliger	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>

APPLY NOW FOR 2025 PREA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Scholarship Trust Fund in Memory of William F. Matson is offering scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members or employees of Pennsylvania electric cooperatives. At least five, \$1,000 one-time scholarships will be awarded.

The Jody Loudenslager Scholarship is available to any college-bound or current college student who participated in the PREA Youth Tour Program.

Requirements for both scholarships:

1. Applicants must provide necessary aptitude test scores, transcripts, and financial aid information.
2. All applications and documentation must be emailed to stephanie_okuniewski@prea.com by May 5, 2025.
3. Complete the application at www.prea.com.

Central Electric Cooperative

Electrical Safety Programs

CEC offers a Safety City Program for 3 & 4 grade students and First Responders Electrical Hazards Training.

CONTACT CEC FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE

800-521-0570 | WWW.CENTRAL.COOP

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Congratulations 2024 Holiday Coloring Contest Winners!

Thank you to the 35 kids who participated in our Holiday Coloring Contest!



Jayden Schettler, age 7
of Shippenville



Lyla Dietrich, age 9
of Valencia



Brielle Smith, age 12
of Hawthorn

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Safety Tips for Before, During, and After the Storm

by Grant Potsubay, Administrator of Safety and Loss Control

Storm season is soon to be in full swing. Many Spring and Summer storms have the potential to produce high winds and in extreme cases tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April 2022, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the Storm

Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or high winds. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. It's important to discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors. For peace of mind during

nasty weather, consider making a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to act. If you find yourself in the path of a severe storm or tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows. If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only. Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close. Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Spring and Summer are the time for many fun-filled activities, but these seasons can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.



Role: Assistant Storekeeper & Meter Repairman
Employee Since: June 2020

Employee Spotlight: Clay Edwards



What is something you are most proud of? My children.



What is one thing on your bucket list? Take a trip to Alaska.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work/what is one of your hobbies? I love riding my Harley with Chicky and friends.



What is one goal you've accomplished within the past year? I quit smoking.



What is your least favorite food? Bananas.



Shocking Insights: How CEC is Bringing Electrical Safety to You

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

Electricity is a powerful tool that we rely on every day, but it can also be incredibly dangerous if not handled properly. While we've all heard the warning that electricity is hazardous, there's no substitute for seeing the dangers firsthand. Central Electric Cooperative is committed to informing the community about electrical safety through safety programs such as our high voltage Hot Line Demonstration.

The Hot Line Demonstration offers a live, impactful look at the risks of interacting with overhead electrical lines and the equipment connected to the lines. Led by skilled linemen, the demonstration showcases the severe dangers of electrical contact and provides real-world examples of how hazardous high voltage can be. The session lasts approximately 30 minutes and is customizable to suit the age and understanding of many groups, making it ideal for schools, community organizations, or any group interested in learning about safety.

In the past, the demonstration was held at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Parker, and for those unable to visit in person, a recorded video version of it was made available. Now, we're excited to take the demonstration on the road with the recent purchase of a new trailer, which will make its debut at the 2025 Member Appreciation Event. The new trailer gives us the chance to expand our audience, bringing the demonstration to more members of the community now that we can travel. A bonus of this purchase is that it's funded entirely by

Escheats Funds, meaning there is no impact on member rates. We look forward to sharing this educational experience with college students, youth, first responders, and anyone else who could benefit!

In addition to the Hot Line Demonstration, CEC offers a Safety City Presentation and First Responders Electrical Hazards Training. Safety City is a portable, miniature neighborhood display used to teach elementary students about electrical safety. The tabletop unit includes buildings, powerlines, and moving props, demonstrating eleven scenarios that children might encounter in rural areas. CEC staff visit schools, scout groups, and other organizations to share the benefits and dangers of electricity. Our First Responders Electrical Hazard Training focuses on informing emergency service personnel of the dangers they may face when dealing with electric utility lines. The training includes our Hot Line Demonstration and an EMS Electrical Safety presentation. Typically, CEC holds the presentation in the spring and can now bring this to your organization or event.

Central Electric Cooperative is dedicated to helping the community stay educated and safe when it comes to electricity. If you'd like to request a Hot Line Demonstration, Safety City Presentation, or First Responders Training, please submit a form for the respective program on our website or call Izzy Cellucci at 800-521-0570 x2152.

Stay safe, stay informed!



Efficiency Kit Launch

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

I want to start by expressing our gratitude for taking the time to read our newsletter. We truly hope that the information and tips we share will help you along the way. To show our appreciation and to further support you, we are excited to give away Energy Efficiency Kits, designed by CEC, to help you use some of the tips you see me write about.

Each kit is packed with simple, yet efficient and useful items, sealed in a waterproof CEC bag.

Energy Efficiency Kits will contain each of the following (pictured below):

- Energy Usage Meter: Calculate how much it costs to run your appliances and devices
- Power Strip: Easily eliminate phantom power loads with the flip of a switch
- LED Light Bulb: Use LED lighting for the most energy efficient choice
- Refrigerator Thermometer: Keep your refrigerator at the most efficient temperature
- Caulking: Use this air-sealing technique to keep your home energy efficient
- Efficiency Tips and Education: Have fun while learning how to keep your home energy efficient

Wondering how to win one of these amazing kits? It's simple! Just log onto the Smart Hub app and check out the usage tab. By doing so, you will automatically be entered into the drawing. The usage tab allows you to monitor your energy usage by month, day or even down to the hour to help determine high usage times or concerns. You can also set up notifications based on your usage. If you need assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at 800-521-0570.



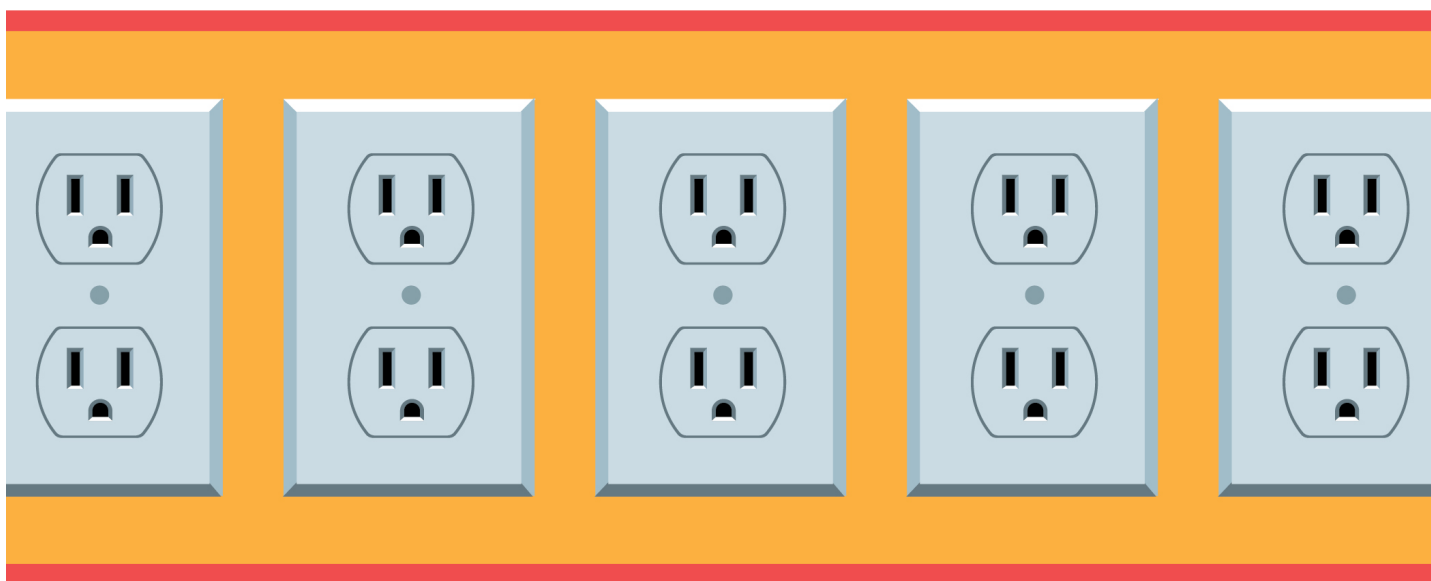
IT'S TIME: CEC Energy Efficiency Kits are ready for delivery to save members' energy consumption.



ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Use a(n) _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
A. power strip B. extension cord C. remote control

2. For devices that require _____, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
A. power cords B. lights C. batteries

3. Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like _____.
A. lamps B. ceiling fans C. phone chargers

4. Use the sleep or power management mode on your _____ to save on energy costs.
A. computer B. refrigerator C. oven

From the Kitchen of:
Louise Sotace

RECIPE: **BUCKEYES**



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 c. creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 c. butter or margarine, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 1/4 c. powdered sugar
- 2 c. chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. shortening or coconut oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cream together butter (or margarine) and peanut butter. Add vanilla extract. Stir well.
2. Gradually add powdered sugar and mix well. Roll into 'walnut-sized' balls until smooth. Place on wax-paper lined cookie sheet and freeze until firm (20 min).
3. While peanut butter balls are chilling, combine chocolate chips and shortening and heat in microwave in 25-second intervals (stirring well in between) until smooth and completely melted.
4. Dip peanut butter balls in melted chocolate with a toothpick and return to cookie sheet. Wait for chocolate to set and enjoy!

*For something different, mix in rice crispies before dipping in chocolate

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

From left (back row): Kenneth Durrett, Butler County; Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Jody Weaver, Vice President, Clarion County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; (front) Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049
Member Services: 800-521-0570
Outages: 800-282-8610



Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci

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Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

