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PowerLines

Safety, Safety, Safety

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I am told that when it comes to real estate it is all about location, location, location. Well, when it comes to electricity it is all about safety, safety, safety. As I write this we have just finished a significant winter storm that impacted 38 states. So naturally it seems like a good day to think of spring. With spring approaching, I hope Punxsutawney Phil was right and winter is not going to linger this year. Nice weather also means planting gardens and cleaning up your properties and homes. Just a reminder, take extra precautions around electrical lines and facilities, especially after the harsh winter weather as those facilities may have experienced damage that, although not resulting in power loss, may create a hazardous condition.

For this month’s safety tip, look elsewhere in this issue for another exciting installment of Safety MATTERS from CEC’s Matt Alderson. CEC also offers an electrical safety program, presented to fifth grade classes throughout our service territory. For more information on our safety programs, please contact Jessica Brison at 1-800-521-0570, ext. 2173 or e-mail jbrison@central.coop or visit www.central.coop. The program is well received and electric utilities throughout the country provide similar presentations. I have had the good fortune to actually give the presentation many times in Illinois and Oregon. Sometimes as busy adults we get complacent and don’t pay attention to the excellent lessons illustrated in this presentation. You see, every

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accident depicted in the presentation has, unfortunately, happened to someone. They are common activities that led to accidents and injuries simply because the victim was not paying attention to the potential hazard of electrical contact.

I always remind my audience



that electricity is great when used correctly and safely. However, electricity is also lazy and stupid. Okay, the look you have on your face right now is the same look I receive from live audiences when I make that statement, so let me clarify. First, electricity is lazy. How can something so powerful be lazy? In order to use electricity we have to put electrons in motion (current) by taking them from magnetic fields and pushing them along conductors with force (voltage). Just like I am not happy when I am pulled from my comfortable couch and forced to do chores by my lovely wife, the electrons are not happy and want to return to a state of rest. They accomplish this by looking for the easiest path to the ground and in most cases that

path is you. Second, electricity is stupid. Despite all the amazing things that we are able to use it for, electricity is unable to tell the difference between a wire conductor and you.

Alright, the science lesson is over. What does this mean as you venture out this spring to do those chores? The good news is that most electrical accidents can be avoided

with minimal effort. For example, before you dig call 1-800-242-1776 or 811 and all utilities will be happy to mark the location of their underground facilities so you can avoid them. When climbing ladders or doing any work above your head simply look up and identify wire locations. Always treat any downed wire as live. Unlike in the movies, energized wires don't always jump around making noise and sparking. As a matter of fact they are usually quiet and still. A good rule of thumb, if you can't 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. CEC employees want to remind you to put electrical safety at the top of your chore list so you make it back to that comfortable couch safe and sound.

Cell Phone & Driving Safety Tips:

1. Whenever possible pull off the road to make or take a call.
2. Stay in your lane.
3. Never dial manually while driving.
4. Allow voice mail to take a message.
5. Keep your phone secure and easily accessible.

CEC's MAAC Committee Represents Members

CEC's Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) provides two-way communication between the members, the board of directors and cooperative management. This committee offers input on cooperative policies, procedures and services that directly affect them and other members.

The 2010–2011 MAAC members are: Charlie & Timi Kost of Armstrong County; Michael & Debbie Markiw, and Dan & Linda Harigan of Butler County; Judy A. Eisenman & William J. Eisenman, Jr., and Randy & Wendy Tharan of Clarion County; Chuck & Joy Holt of Forest County; Charles & Margaret Woods, and Jim & Tina Paich of Venango County; and the seasonal representatives Larry & Nanette McNeal.

The MAAC meets quarterly to discuss issues affecting our members and the cooperative. In 2010 MAAC learned about CEC's finances,



products and services, energy assistance and safety programs as well as reviewed the Annual Meeting and member surveys.

If you are interested in serving on the 2012-2013 MAAC committee please complete and submit the coupon located in our November issue of Power Lines or call Chris O'Donnell at 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2170.

Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Update

Cooperative legislators gain important posts in the Pennsylvania Senate and House Caucus reorganization:

Senate

- Sen. Joe Scarnati (R–Clearfield), President Pro Tempore
- Sen. Bob Robbins (R–Mercer), Majority Caucus Chair
- Sen. Jake Corman (R–Centre), Appropriations Committee Chair
- Sen. Mary Jo White (R–Venango), Environmental Resources & Energy Chair

House

- Sam Smith (R–Centre), Speaker of the House



- Dick Stevenson (R–Mercer), Majority Whip
- Frank Dermody (D–Allegheny), Minority Leader
- Scott Hutchinson (R–Venango), Environmental Resources and Energy Chair

Join ACRE today and support the legislators and legislation that helps keep your rates reasonable and your service reliable. Call 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2171 and ask Chris Panian for details regarding membership in ACRE.

CEC Winter Coloring Contest Winners

CEC would like to thank all the kids who entered our 2010 coloring contest. We judged the kids in three different age groups this year. The winners are: ages 5-7, Mackenzie Scherer; ages 8-10, Paige Johns; and ages 11-12, Beth Covert. Congratulations girls!



From left to right: Paige Johns, Beth Covert and Mackenzie Scherer.

Save Money with U\$X Federal Credit Union

All CEC employees, members and their immediate family members are eligible to join the U\$X Federal Credit



Union. Right now auto loan interest rates are as low as 2.75 annual percentage rate with up to 72 months to repay! These low rates apply to 2011, 2010 and 2009 models. So you can save money whether you buy a new or used car, or refinance your current loan from another financial institution.

Join today and take advantage of this tremendous offer! To get current rate information and learn more about other money saving products and services visit www.usxfc.org, visit the Saxonburg/Sarver office or call 1-888-219-3159.

Install an A.O. Smith Tank Today!

The McCleary residence in Slippery Rock is one of many CEC members with a water heater on Central's Load Management Program. The A.O. Smith tank was installed in October 2010 by John Relihan, owner of Dr. Water Heater, Inc.



Interested members can purchase the A.O. Smith tank with standard installation for \$349.99 plus tax. For more information please contact us at 1-800-521-0570 or visit our Web site at www.central.coop.

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By **Ken Maleski**
Residential Analyst
& Advisor

www.central.coop
Check it out!



What is a Phantom Load?

A phantom load refers to electrical devices in our home that use power even when they're turned off. Examples of phantom loads are flat-screen televisions, DVD and DVR players, cable or satellite receiver boxes, cell phones and game devices to name a few.

Phantom loads are the fastest growing energy users in the nation, accounting for 15 percent of a home's monthly electric usage. At this rate they will surpass heating and cooling's monthly usage by 2030.

How can you reduce phantom loads? That's easy ... unplug all devices when not in use. But if you're looking for a less time-consuming solution purchase a Smart Strip power strip at www.smarthouseusa.com. This type of surge protector automatically shuts off loads that are inactive. It also includes a receptacle for items such as your dish or cable receiver box that remains in the "on" mode at all times.

If you would like to learn more about the best-of-the-best energy-efficient appliances available, visit www.toptenusa.com.

SAFETY

M Cell Phones & Driving **A** Safety Tips **T** **T** **e** **r** **s**

Using a cell phone while driving is common, but dangerous. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2009 there were a reported 5,474 people killed by distracted driving, and 995 were considered to be killed by drivers using cell phones.

Here are some safety tips to follow while driving:

■ **Pull off the road:**

Whenever possible to make or take a call.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

- **Stay in your lane:** Keep conversations brief so you can concentrate on the road.
- **Never dial manually while driving:** Use the speed or redial feature.
- **Take a message:** Allow voice mail to pick up your calls in unpredictable driving conditions.
- **Keep your phone secure and easily accessible:** Make sure your phone is securely placed within reach while driving.

Recipe of the Month

Slow Cooker Reuben Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 1 package (2 pounds) refrigerated sauerkraut
- 1 package (2 to 3 pounds) corned beef brisket
- 1 cup thousand island dressing
- 16 slices pumpernickel rye bread, toasted
- 8 slices (1 ounce each) swiss cheese

Directions:

1. Place sauerkraut in slow cooker. Place beef brisket on sauerkraut.
2. Cover and cook on low heat for 9 to 11 hours.
3. Remove beef from cooker; place on cutting board. Cut beef into slices. To serve, spread 1 tablespoon dressing on each toast slice. Using slotted spoon to remove sauerkraut from cooker, top 8 individual slices of toast with 1/2 cup sauerkraut. Top sauerkraut with beef slices and cheese slice. Top with remaining toast.

www.bettycrocker.com

All recipes submitted will automatically be entered in the 2011 Annual Meeting Recipe Contest.

Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or mail to Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

Rockland Cemetery Association of Kennerdell

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all CEC members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For a faster entry you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: CEC awarded three prizes for the 2010 Winter Coloring Contest.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: If you are interested in serving on the 2012–2013 MAAC committee send in the coupon found in our December 2011 issue.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Phantom loads account for 25 percent of a home's energy usage.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



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