

Inside: Learn How To ...

Bring CEC to Your School or Youth Group for an Electrical Safety Program

Sign Up for an Energy Efficiency Demonstration

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines

2013 Photo Contest Entry
Taken by Brick Minich of Sligo

What We’re Doing About It

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I have often said that when I am choosing a topic for my monthly article I prefer suggestions come from our members. There are many topics I find interesting and important, but when it comes to this business, I am a self-described “electricity geek,” so those topics may not always interest you. Recently I had the opportunity to speak with a couple of members, and this is where this month’s topic presented itself.

Outages. The members I spoke with were frustrated and unhappy with the number of outages they have been experiencing, and rightfully so. This summer, like the last, has seen a volatile weather pattern that has left some of our members experiencing greater outage times than they, and we, would like.

Each year at the Annual Meeting and in our Annual Report, we

provide the outage time number for that year. This number is the total average number of outage hours, per year, per member. This is an “all-inclusive” number, but we do break that number down so we can identify ways to improve. We look at items like scheduled outages, the time that we de-energize the lines to safely conduct maintenance and facility upgrades. We also consider power supply interruptions, those times when the service to our substations is interrupted and we are waiting on suppliers for restoration. There are also major storm events — tornados, hurricanes and ice storms that represent another category of outage. Our area of greatest focus, however, is all of the other outage types not yet mentioned. These are outages caused by trees, wildlife, lightning, small thunderstorms, vehicle accidents and the like. The reason this is our major area of focus is that

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it is the area in which our efforts can have the greatest positive impact. While the causes are out of our control, the system improvement and maintenance projects we do have a positive impact on the frequency and duration of those outages.

CEC's system improvement projects replace older, outdated equipment, add capacity and improve sectionalizing and switching capabilities.

Our system improvement projects replace older, outdated equipment, add capacity and improve sectionalizing and switching capabilities. How does this help? A line that is near the end of its useful life has a summer thunderstorm come through and bring down a tree on the line. The strain breaks the line and a pole, and results in an entire feeder line being out of service until all of the equipment has been completely repaired. Now imagine that same line, newly replaced with added structural and electrical capacity, ties to other supplies and added sectionalizing capability. The same tree falls, but the strain breaks only the wire and blows a fuse (the added sectionalizing), interrupting fewer members.

Our single largest cause of service interruption is tree contact. In fact, trees are the largest cause of interruption in the country. So what are we doing about that? Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) makes a substantial annual investment in clearing miles of line by trimming trees. Currently substation areas are cleared on an eight-year time frame. We clear our right of way and, when allowed, take trees that would be considered dangerous from outside rights-of-way.

We have also improved our ability to respond once the power does go out. As I mentioned, our system design often allows us to decrease the number of members affected, but we have also improved how we identify outages and dispatch personnel. Our Outage Management System (OMS) allows us to better identify and predict the scope and location of outages much sooner than ever before. It also helps us to identify the appropriate resources to send in response.

Over time, these efforts have reduced our total average outage times. We will continue expanding these efforts to decrease the number and duration of outages that you experience.

Please know that we recognize that system average numbers do not address an individual member's concerns. Our efforts are showing positive results on the whole, but we also want to work with you to focus on members most impacted. While I can't quantify it, the outage times that we would experience if we were not making these investments would certainly be substantially higher. I thank you for your continued support and patience while we work to continue our improvement of your electrical service.

**Congratulations to
Andre La-Strapes for
winning the iPad for
enrolling in paperless billing!**

SAFETY

MATTERS

Autumn Safety Tips

As the leaves change and you start preparing for cold weather, make sure to keep your family, house and yourself safe. The following tips will help you remain safe both indoors and out.

- Preventing fire is always important but it becomes more important in the fall because we tend to plug in a lot more devices. So remember to test all smoke alarms and replace used and expired fire extinguishers.
- If you use a portable space heater, keep it away from clothing, bedding, drapery and furniture. Remember to



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operations Support

shut it off when you leave the house and don't leave it unattended around children or pets.

- If you have decided that your yard needs spruced up by trimming your trees, be sure to look up and survey the area carefully before you start. Make note of where power lines are located before you set up your ladder, so that it is positioned away from them.
- Wearing appropriate footwear is important when using a ladder. Wet shoes or boots may cause you to slip as you climb. The ladder should be positioned on a flat surface before use.
- Keep your driveway and walkway clear of fallen leaves. Wet leaves can create a slipping hazard for pedestrians.

2014 Youth Tour

This year CEC sponsored two students for the 50th Anniversary Youth Tour. The students were Amanda Crate (Cranberry, Pa.) and Danielle Kepple (Karns City, Pa.).

From June 15 to 20 they joined students from other Pennsylvania and New Jersey electric cooperatives, along with over 1,500 high school juniors from across the country, to experience the beauty and history of our nation's capitol and learn about electric cooperatives.

They met with congressmen from Pennsylvania, toured national monuments and memorials, visited the National Zoo and the Smithsonian Museum.



From left: Amanda Crate, and
Danielle Kepple.

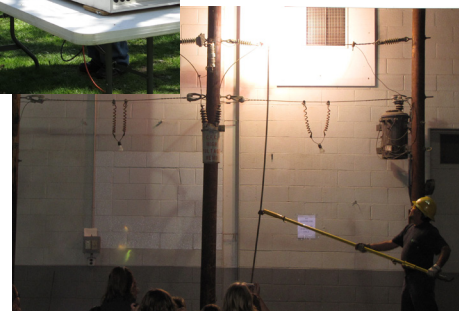
Electrical Safety Programs

Do your kids know how to stay safe around electricity? CEC has a firm commitment to electrical safety education and we are pleased to offer electrical safety programs to elementary schools and youth groups in our service territory. From computers to cell phones to game consoles, electricity's presence in our lives is increasing. To effectively educate youth about safe practices with electricity, CEC teaches not only about electrical safety, but about electricity itself. CEC's electrical safety program will help you anticipate and avoid electrical dangers wherever you go.

Our in-class presentation is designed for fifth grade students and includes a table-top demonstration and handouts. The presentation is approximately 40 minutes long.

We also offer a live, high-voltage demonstration at our headquarters in Parker.

If you are interested in either of these programs and would like more information, please contact Renee Tritten at 800-521-0570 x2173 or email rtritten@central.coop.



CEC promotes energy efficiency to save money and increase comfort. CEC offers free demonstrations to groups who wish to learn more on how to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient. The program uses three table top models to demonstrate the important roles of infiltration, insulation and lighting.

Infiltration accounts for up to 35 percent of energy loss for both heating and cooling. Building penetrations such as plumbing vents, recessed light fixtures, wall electrical outlets and attic access doors are potential energy loss sites. Our infiltration module uses a smoke pencil to compare unsealed and sealed penetration points and their energy loss potential.

Energy Efficiency Demonstrations

All insulation materials are not equal. Hot or cold air can travel at varying rates through different insulation. Our energy module clearly shows how effective one material is in relation to another for energy efficiency.

Finally, lighting is one area that is the least expensive way to improve energy efficiency. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) and Light Emitting Diodes (LED) are great ways to save on energy and recover your investment in a short time. Our module compares the actual energy consumed by various types of energy efficient lighting in contrast to a standard incandescent lamp.

Members or civic organizations who would like a group demonstration can contact me at 800-521-0570 x2172 to learn more.

Photo Contest Voting

After 35 members submitted wonderful photos for our 2014 Photo Contest, online voting has narrowed it down to five contestants. Please vote from the below five photos for the three you feel deserve to be our winners! The photo with the most votes will receive first place and a \$100 bill credit, second place receives a \$50 bill credit and third a \$25 bill credit. If you have access to the Internet, you can also vote on our website until Oct. 17. We will announce the winners in late October and in December's Power Lines newsletter.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3

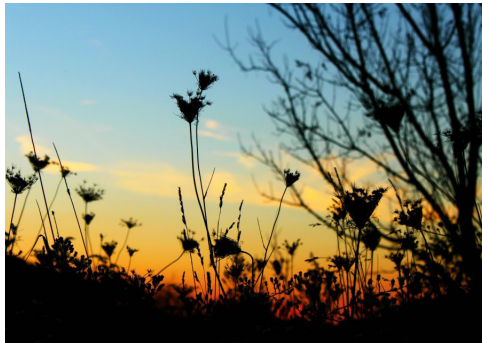


Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo Contest Voting Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Please check the boxes for the three photos you wish to vote for.

Photo #1

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

Photo #5

Return this coupon to CEC by Oct. 17, 2014.

Recipe of the Month

Mert's Grape Salad

Salad:

- 4 pounds red seedless grapes — washed, dried and chilled
- 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Whip the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla together. Add the chilled grapes.

Topping:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- Chopped walnuts (optional)

Mix the brown sugar and walnuts and pack on top of the salad. Chill and enjoy!

*Thank you to MaryEllen Edinger
for submitting this recipe!*

Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at rtritten@central.coop or mail to CEC,
716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

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*CFO, Director of Finance and
Accounting*

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
*Director of Member and
Community Relations*

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
*Director of Engineering and
Operations*

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Patrick Aaron of Venus

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Joseph Wallace of West Sunbury

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop.

1. True or False: Free demonstrations are available to groups who wish to learn more about making a home or business energy efficient.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Fallen leaves add traction for pedestrians.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Trees are the largest cause of power interruption in the country.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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