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Make a Difference

Lower Heating Costs

Stay Safe

PowerLines

“Watts” Inside

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Working & Living Safely

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

The articles I write are intended to keep you informed of the happenings of your cooperative. I don't often repeat topics but this month, I am making an exception. Safety is important enough that it bears repeating. To paraphrase a saying about Chicago politics, “safety early and safety often.” Regular reminders keep the topic in your thoughts and might make all of the difference.

In the business of providing electricity, safety is our priority. There is no separation between work and safety. We strive to work safely. The benefits are significant and many. Most importantly we are all able to go home at night and see our families. There is also the added benefit of team building that comes from coworkers looking out for one another as well as other benefits too numerous to list here.

This business is an inherently dangerous one, and the hazards can not be entirely eliminated. For these reasons we have safety programs, practices, procedures and rules that govern much of what we do. Every day we work with, and around, electricity, so electrical safety is in the front of our minds all the time. I take pictures of electric facilities on vacation, for goodness sake! A practice that my wife frowns on, but I know other utility professionals do as well.

The same usually can't be said for those of you who don't work in this business. It is for this reason that Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and other power companies offer electrical public safety education programs. Have you ever noticed that when you watch a movie and an electric wire is down there is always a lot of arcing,

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Member Memories:

“It cost me \$5 to become a member ... and I remember receiving \$1 from the co-op for each pole they set on my property in 1946.”

*Roy Bailey,
member since
1946.*

If you have a favorite CEC memory and would like to be considered for this special column, please contact Chris O'Donnell at 1-800-521-0570 x 2170.

sparkling and noise? It makes the scene more dramatic and exciting, but not necessarily more real. While it is true that downed wires may behave in that manner, it is just as likely that the wire will just lie there silently. As a good rule of thumb, if you can't see both ends of a wire, assume it is energized.

CEC offers an electric safety program that we present to fifth-grade classes throughout our service territory. This program is very well received and electric utilities all over the country provide similar presentations. I have had the good fortune to actually give the presentation many times in the past. Sometimes we busy adults get complacent and don't pay attention to the excellent lessons illustrated in the presentation. 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 reminding everyone of how great it is to have electricity available for everything that we use it for, but also remind them that it is only a positive when used correctly and safely.

Electricity is lazy and stupid! Not something you might expect to hear from someone who works where I do — let me explain. First, electricity is lazy. In order to use electricity to power things we have to put electrons in motion (current) by taking them from magnetic fields and pushing them along conductors with force (voltage). Many wives out there will see the obvious comparison to getting your husbands off the couch to perform work, only to find them returning at every possible opportunity. In the same way, the electrons are not happy about it either and want to return to a state of rest. They do this by constantly looking for the easiest, or least resistive, path to the ground, and in the case of most accidents, the path is you. It is there that the comparison ends, however. While man's quest to return to the couch often requires a great deal of thought and perhaps cunning, electricity is stupid. Despite all of the amazing things that we are able to do with it, electricity is not able to tell the difference between a wire conductor and you.

Electricity is a part of so much that we do, please make using it safely as part of what you do. Take a moment and look about you and consider what hazards could exist. If you have questions or concerns, call us and we will help.

To paraphrase the sergeant on Hill Street Blues, "Let's be safe out there today!"

Make a Difference: Join ACRE!

Join the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action and have your voice combined with rural electric members across the country. This program is a nonpartisan political action committee established to support political candidates who share common public policy goals with rural electric cooperatives.

With unprecedented interest in energy issues at the federal level and in state legislatures across the country, it is important now more than ever to actively support legislators and candidates who favor fair and equitable treatment for electric cooperatives. The stakes are high and decisions regarding legislation today can have a far-reaching impact on energy costs for years to come. Your contributions will help make sure the voices of rural electric consumer-owners are heard.

Join Co-op Owners for Political Action today by completing the adjacent form and sending it in with your bill. You can also visit our website at www.central.coop or contact the ACRE coordinator for Central Electric, Chris Panian, at 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2171.

Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

Membership Form

Yes I want to Join!

There are two easy ways to pay:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to ACRE.

Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill

- Regular: \$25
- Century Club: \$100
- President's Club: \$500
- Other
- Please renew my amount at this level annually

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Membership Information

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Account: _____

**Federal Election Law requires
the following information for contributions
equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: _____
Occupation: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

**Return this form to
Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

SAFETY

M A T T e r s

Power Tool Safety Tips

Portable electric tools are just what their name implies, power tools. Here are some tips to keep you safe while you work.



- Make sure tools are properly grounded before they are turned on. Electric shock is the greatest power-tools hazard.
- Use and maintain tools with care. Keep them sharp and clean for their best and safest performance.
- Keep the cord in good condition. Keep it away from heat, oil and sharp edges.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

- Never carry a tool by its cord or yank the cord to disconnect it from a receptacle.
- Wear proper clothing and personal protective equipment when working with power tools. Loose clothing or jewelry can get caught in moving parts.
- Keep your balance and proper footing when working with power tools, being careful not to overreach.
- Keep the work area well lit and clean. Cluttered areas and benches invite accidents.

Courtesy of Federated Insurance.



Light Up Your Winter Nights with Yard Lights

Winter is just around the corner and with it, shorter days and longer nights. As a member you can take advantage of our outdoor lighting program. For as little as \$8.50 per month, that's just pennies a day, CEC will light up your garage area, barnyard or parking lot. The following are different lighting options:

- 100-Watt high-pressure sodium yard light for \$8.50 per month
- 150-Watt high-pressure sodium yard light for \$13 per month
- 400-Watt high-pressure sodium vapor or metal halide flood light for \$25 per month

Eliminate the hassles of purchasing, installing and maintaining yard lights. Our outdoor lights provide peace of mind to homeowners. CEC also has available 30-foot poles for service or security lighting installation. Each pole is \$350 and includes delivery to the member's property and setting the pole. For details call 1-800-521-0570.

Ken's kilowatt corner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop
Check it out!



Seal The Deal

The average family loses about a third (\$350) of its annual heating and cooling budget on air leaks, according to ENERGY STAR. Money spent on correcting these unintended gaps and cracks can pay for itself with one year's energy savings. Here are some areas that you can target now to "seal the deal" on losing money and comfort.

Attic hatch doors – Weather strip or caulk around stair frame and the rough opening.

Recessed lights – Use light cans labeled ICAT (insulation contact and air tight) that are sealed. Look for the ICAT label next to the bulb.

Chimney and flue pipes – Use aluminum flashing with high temperature silicone caulk around chimney and flue pipe gaps that enter the attic.

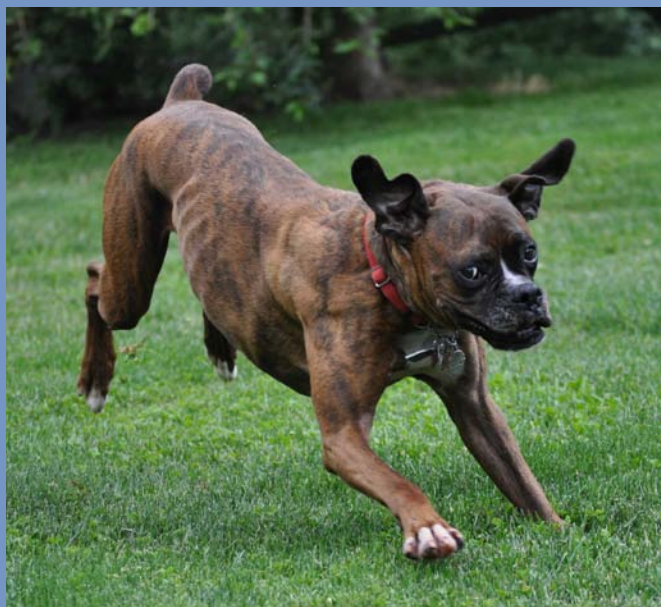
Basement seal plate – Apply a bead of caulk along seam where wood frames meet the foundation.

Basement penetrations – Target gaps and penetrations above the outside soil level such as holes for wires, pipes and ducts to the outside.

Duct work – Mastic duct paste is the number-one choice for sealing duct joints. Hardware store cloth-back tape fails quickly.

Remember that caulking is used for sealing holes up to ¼-inch wide. Low-expansion polyurethane foam is more suitable for larger gaps.

Now is the time to inspect your home before winter weather arrives!



Nice Doggy???

Dogs are great pets, and many are excellent protectors of their families' homes and yards. However, the gentlest pal can give a nasty bite to a stranger, even if the stranger is just there to do their job. Our employees are very cautious when working around pets but incidents can happen, despite precautions.

CEC reminds its members to please control pets when they see our personnel working in the area.

We understand that pets are very important but remember that we need access to our poles and meters to provide reliable service, and respond to emergencies. Thank you!

Recipe of the Month

Raisin Bran Muffins

Mix:

- 5 cups flour
- 2-1/2 cups sugar
- 7 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons salt
- One 15-ounce box Raisin Bran Cereal®

Add:

- 1 quart buttermilk
- 1 cup oil or applesauce
- 4 eggs/equivalent egg substitute

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease muffin tins, ENJOY the butter! Bake 20 minutes. Makes a big batch. Can be kept up to 2 weeks.

Thank you to Julie Miller for submitting the recipe!

Send Recipes to:

Chris O'Donnell at codonnell@central.coop or mail to
Central Electric Cooperative, 716 Route 368,
PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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To Celebrate the Holidays CEC will be Closed:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 22 (normal hours will resume Nov. 23)
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closing at noon
Christmas, Dec. 25 (normal hours will resume Dec. 26)
New Year's, Jan. 1 (normal hours will resume Jan. 2)

Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

Darrell Klette, Sr. of Clarion County

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.

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

1. True or False: Electricity is lazy.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: The average family loses \$350 yearly on air leaks. **Answer:** _____

3. True or False: Dogs should be allowed to run freely to greet meter service technicians.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no right/wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Account No: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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