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Outage Notifications are Here!

Always Call 811 Before You Dig

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# Power Lines

Photo from Unsplash

**Outage Communication Efforts**

*by Guest Writer Renee Tritten, CEC’s Communication Supervisor*

Ever since Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, providing reliable electricity has been a challenge for electric utilities around the globe. Mother Nature is a tough opponent — and it is impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether, despite everyone’s best efforts.

Central Electric Cooperative’s (CEC’s) primary goal is to safely deliver the highest possible quality electric service at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in members’ eyes are the number of times their lights blink or go out. Or maybe it is in the way CEC communicates during power outages.

Over the past several years, many members have requested an addition to the ways CEC communicates during power outages — offering outage notifications specific to each individual member’s

outage situation. After receiving this feedback, we went to work on the best way to bring you that service. It took a few years, with lots of research and testing, but we are very excited to announce that you can now sign up to receive outage notifications! Whether the problem is a line that only affects your location, or a wider outage that impacts your whole neighborhood, you can rest assured knowing that wherever you are and whatever you are doing CEC will keep you informed.

Outage text and email notifications allow CEC to directly contact you when power is out, to provide an estimated time of restoration, and to notify you when power has been restored. An estimated time of restoration (ETR) is the amount of time CEC anticipates it will take to restore your power after an outage. This means your actual time of restoration could

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## The Safety Linke



*Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.*

### Tick Safety



Manager of Safety  
& Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

As the weather continues to improve into the summer months, more folks are spending their time enjoying the outdoors. Along with the opportunity to experience warmer weather, Mother Nature poses us with the concern of ticks.

Ticks are small arachnids who bite to fasten themselves onto the skin and feed on blood. Ticks live in the fur and feathers of many birds and animals as well as damp, shaded areas of the underbrush and vegetation in wooded areas. There are several types of ticks in the United States, and they can be found in virtually any area of the country. Unfortunately, Western PA is uncommonly popular for them. Tick bites occur most often during early spring to late summer, most often in the areas described above. It is important to try and avoid areas where ticks are found and prevent tick bites to avoid contracting the diseases they may carry. Diseases ticks can carry are Lyme's Disease; Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; Tularemia; Relapsing Fever; and Colorado Tick Fever.

Most of these diseases come with flu-like symptoms after getting bit. Symptoms may begin from day one to three weeks after. Sometimes a bull's-eye-shaped rash or sore area near the bite appears, along with the flu-like symptoms. If you are bitten by a tick or display these symptoms after being in an area where ticks are found, go to the

doctor. Early diagnosis and antibiotics can result in a full recovery from these diseases.

You should avoid areas where there is a lot of vegetation or animals that can carry ticks. If you must be in these areas, wear clothes and gloves that cover as much skin as possible. Use bug repellent that protects against ticks. Check for ticks periodically on your clothes and on your skin. Do a complete check of your body before showering. Ticks like to bury themselves in the skin on warmer areas of the body.

It is important to remove an attached tick as quickly as possible. Removing the tick quickly can prevent the spread of disease if the tick is infected. Use fine tip tweezers to remove the tick. Make sure the head of the tick is removed with the body. Save the tick in a zip lock bag or container in case it needs identified at a later time if disease occurs. There are also several consumer-grade options to have the tick tested for diseases.

If you find an attached tick, wash the area with soap and water after the tick is removed — and your hands. Apply antibiotic ointment to the area if the bite becomes irritated. While many ticks do not carry disease, some do. Avoiding areas where ticks are present is the best way to eliminate the chance of getting bit. It is important to protect yourself and prevent tick bites.

Get smart about electrical safety.  
**May is National  
Electrical Safety Month.**



## Always Call 811 Before You Dig!

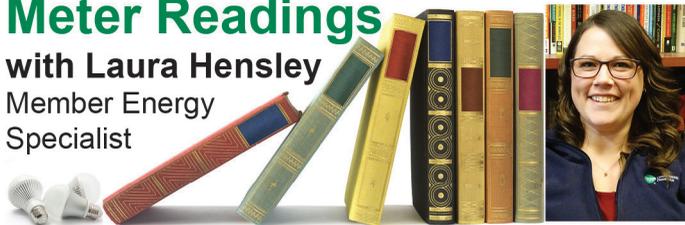
Spring is a great time to plant a garden, install a deck, or build an addition to your home. But wait! Before digging, check to see if there are any underground utilities. It's easy. Just call the Pennsylvania One Call System at 8-1-1 or visit [www.pa1call.org](http://www.pa1call.org) for answers to all your questions. Make sure you call at least three working days before you plan to dig.

Whether you are a contractor, home builder, or landowner the Pennsylvania One Call System will ensure you are digging safely. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Caitlin Kriebel at CEC at 800-521-0570 x2195.

## Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy  
Specialist



Spring is a wonderful time of year for sunshine and flowers, but it may also mean damp basements and living spaces for your home. As weather changes and you turn off the heat in your home, you may notice high humidity and excess moisture issues. Portable dehumidifiers are a great way to combat this problem.

Some signs you may need a dehumidifier include moisture or water stains on ceilings or walls, condensation on windows, musty odors, visible mold/mildew, or your smart thermostat alerts you of humidity levels higher than 50-60 percent. If this is the case, it is best to first determine why you are experiencing these issues. For instance, is there a plumbing or roof leak, do you have areas where outside air is getting in, or do gutters and downspouts need to be maintained to ensure water is diverted away from the foundation of your home? Repairs may be necessary to solve the problem long-term.

If a portable dehumidifier is used there are some considerations for purchasing and operating efficiently. The capacity of a dehumidifier (commonly 50 or 70 pints) refers to the amount

## Dehumidifiers

of moisture it can pull from the air in a 24-hour period. Check manufacturer recommendations for the capacity necessary for your needs and room size. Place the dehumidifier away from walls and furniture and sources of dust and dirt. Only operate in spaces where all windows and doors are closed. Be sure to empty the water collected by the unit as often as possible or connect it properly to a drain. Lastly, look for dehumidifiers with the Energy Star logo.

Dehumidifiers measure relative humidity (RH). The optimum RH level for a building is generally between 30 and 50 percent. Anything above this range may promote bacteria growth. Most dehumidifiers include a built-in humidistat, which allows you to set the desired RH level and the dehumidifier will cycle on and off automatically to maintain the level.

When it comes to your electric bill, a dehumidifier that runs often can make a noticeable impact. Here is an example: Let's say this spring you have a very damp basement and you have opted to purchase a popular 50-gallon Energy Star dehumidifier. If the unit ran for 10 hours per day to keep the space at below 50 percent RH, the electricity cost is about \$0.60 per day, and \$18 per month for a CEC residential member, with the exact impact depending on the size of the dehumidifier and time operating.

## Outage Alerts Delivered Right to Your Phone!

Want updates about outages directly from our crews? CEC will text you real-time updates when you sign up through SmartHub!

CEC is excited to announce a new way for you to receive outage notifications! Outage notifications specific to your service

location through SmartHub. This new communication tool allows CEC to contact you when your power is out, give you an estimated

time of restoration, and let you know when your power is restored. CEC crews update this on the job, so you are getting the information right from the source!

You must have a SmartHub account and sign up to receive outage notifications.

Outage notifications include alerts for a reported outage affecting your account, updates for those outages, and a notice your power has been restored.

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**All members who are signed up to receive notifications before July 2 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit valued at \$60. CEC will give away 100 total kits.**

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In an outage situation, CEC relies on you to notify us that your power is out, however, you may receive a text notifying you of an outage if you are a part of a larger outage and others have already notified us.

It is important that members who receive a power restored message and are still without power,



report this to CEC. This helps us know that you have an individual outage and that the work we did on the other portion of the line feeding your location did not restore your power.

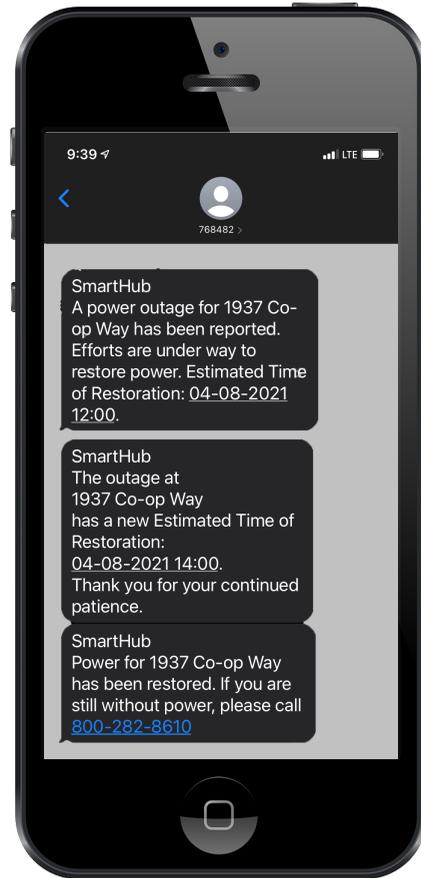
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**To receive notifications, CEC must have up-to-date contact information on your SmartHub account and you must be signed up. Members who are currently signed up for SmartHub will also need to verify that their account and contact information is up to date and sign up for notifications.**

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Alert preferences can be updated at any time. For more information, please visit CEC's website.

Don't forget you can also report outages through SmartHub with the touch of a button — as well as monitor your energy use, pay bills, and much more! Learn more ways to unlock all of the capabilities of SmartHub by visiting [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).



**To learn how to sign up for Outage Notifications, visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).**

*Standard messaging rates may apply based on your carrier plan. CEC employees and directors, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible to win an Outage Preparedness Kit.*

## Recipe of the Month

### Hot Bean Salad

#### Ingredients:

- 4 strips bacon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon corn starch
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2/3 cup vinegar
- 1 pound cut green beans, drained
- 1 pound cut wax yellow beans, drained
- 15-ounces red kidney beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 onion, sliced

#### Directions:

Snip bacon into small pieces and place in a 2-quart casserole dish. Microwave on high for 3-4 minutes, stirring after 2 minutes. Remove bacon pieces and place on paper towel to remove grease. Leave bacon drippings in dish. Add sugar and corn starch; blend well. Then stir in salt, pepper, and vinegar. Microwave on high for 4-5 minutes or until thick. Add drained beans and onion slices to sauce in dish; stir well. Cover and microwave on high for 6 minutes stirring after 3 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with bacon.

*Thank you to Edwin Wilbert for submitting this recipe!*

## CEC Management Team

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Stephanie Deal  
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger  
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover  
Director of Member Services

## Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

**Jerry Gray of Erie**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Judy Hawk of Kittanning**

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

**1. True or False:** Any member signed up to receive outage notifications before July 2 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** For a tick bite to be dangerous you have to develop a red bull's eye rash.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** The optimum RH level for a building is generally between 30 and 50 percent.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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