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Vote for the Winning Photos in Our Photo Contest

Be a Co-op Voter

PowerLines

Photo by Jody Shawley of Clarion

"Watts" Inside

Board of Directors

Electricity Has No Bias

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Electricity is an amazing thing. It powers everything we use. Cooperatives exist because it was apparent in the 1930s that access to electricity for all Americans was instrumental in the United States being a world leader. It has allowed us to grow and modernize — and even feed the world. For all the amazing things people have been able to do using electricity, it remains a powerful and potentially dangerous service.

In case you haven't caught on yet, this is another article about electric safety. Restrictions of the pandemic have been mostly lifted and we are all out and about working, playing, and making up for lost time. With all the pent-up energy (no pun intended) and frustration we all feel, attention to potential hazards becomes particularly important. Safety remains the top priority for Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), and we extend our efforts to our members and the public as well. Because each of us will be exposed to individual and unique hazards, I thought it best to focus this safety discussion on education. Understanding electricity and how it works can go a long way toward helping us identify hazards and helping us work safely around it.

Electricity has been in the news a lot. We hear stories all the time about nuclear, coal, natural gas, solar, and wind generation. Ultimately, these stories are not about electricity, they are about fuel sources. Regardless of your opinion about each of these fuel sources, electricity has no bias. Electricity, the energy produced in a generator and expressed in terms of electric current or power, has no bias. The electrons do not behave differently based upon the fuel that drives their generation. In fact, while there has been significant improvement in efficiency and major

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capacity upgrades, the transmission and distribution of electricity remains the same, because electrons behave the same regardless.

Electricity has no bias and will flow in whatever path it can to return to the ground. That flow of electrons is what we use to power our devices for work and play, and perhaps the most important safety tip to remember is that electricity cannot differentiate between the intended path and a human being. I often refer to electricity as lazy and stupid. I call it lazy because it is always trying to get to the ground and stupid because it cannot distinguish between a wire intended to conduct electricity and a human.

To work safely around high-voltage electric lines, our linemen are thoroughly and regularly trained in how electricity behaves, appropriate hazard mitigation procedures (visible open, test dead, and ground), and the use of personal protective equipment. Although we all utilize electricity in our daily routine, we don't typically work directly with electricity. In order to protect ourselves from the potential hazards of electricity, it is important we pay close attention to things that are out of the ordinary.

In everyday life, discoloration on a power outlet or switch, frayed cords, or tripped surge suppressor are all examples of things that could lead to an electrical contact or provide that unbiased electricity another path to the ground. In our business, we refer to this as hazard identification and it is a formal process we follow before the beginning of each separate task that is done. We all need to be aware of our surroundings and vigilant to the things that are not quite right.

Our goal is for no one, not our employees, our members, or the general public, to experience an injury or accident while working with or utilizing the essential service we provide — electricity. Because this is our highest priority, we will continue to remind you to keep the importance of electrical safety in the forefront of your mind. Remember, electricity has no bias and is unforgiving. If you provide the opportunity for it to flow through you — it will.

Be safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your continued support of and willingness to work with your cooperative toward our common goals.

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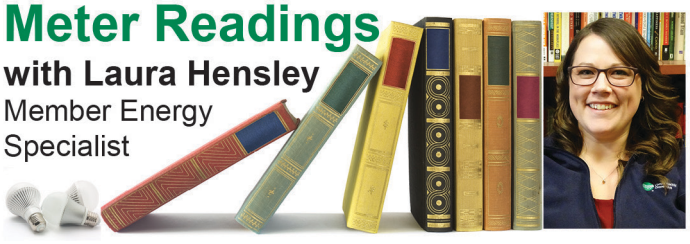
Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley
Member Energy Specialist



Cooking

When you are planning what to make for dinner, you probably are not thinking about using the least amount of electricity, but some habits in the kitchen can help you do just that.

Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens, and air fryers are more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

If you are cooking on the stove top, use the smallest cookware possible for the job and use a lid to keep the steam in the pot for faster heating. It is also recommended to keep a clean stovetop for the most effective and efficient cooking.

If you are turning on the oven to bake, only preheat if the recipe calls for it and keep the oven door closed, using the oven light to check on progress. To save energy, keep the oven racks clear and avoid covering with foil, which will block heat and slow baking times. If you are placing multiple items in the oven at one time, be sure to allow space between them so heat can circulate. Or why not try a no-bake dessert (like this month's recipe on the back of this newsletter)!

Energy Savings in the Kitchen

Cleaning

Would it surprise you to know running the dishwasher verses handwashing all those dishes was saving you not just time, but electricity? Running a nicely organized, full load of dishes through the dishwasher will save energy and water.

The biggest expense of doing dishes is water heating. You can cut back significantly by using a dishwasher. It costs the same to run the dishwasher with just a couple of dishes, so be sure to fill it up.

You can also save energy by simply scaping off dishes before loading them and avoiding a pre-wash in the sink. If you must rinse dishes, do it with cold water.

One last way to cut energy costs with the dishwasher is by skipping the heated dry cycle and letting the dishes air dry with the door open.

The Safety Linke

Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Manager of Safety & Loss Control

Dylan Linke

Downed Power Line Safety

Power lines may come down for several reasons — such as windstorms, fallen trees, ice buildup, or motor vehicle accidents. You cannot tell if a downed power line is energized just by looking at it. There does not have to be sparks or movement. Plus, even if the line is not live one moment, automatic switching equipment could restore power to the line without warning. The protective covering on a power line is not insulation; it only protects the line from the weather. It will not protect you from electrical contact.

The electricity in a power line always seeks a path to the ground. This path might include a tree, a vehicle, or a fence. These objects then become energized. If you touch the energized line or object, the electricity can flow through your body, which is why it is so important to also keep away from any object that is in contact with a power line.

Once electricity reaches the ground, the ground itself becomes energized. This can happen if a broken power line falls to the ground or onto a vehicle or tree. The electricity then flows through the ground over a wide area, spreading out like ripples in a pool of water. The voltage in the ground is very high at the point of electrical contact. Farther away, the voltage drops off. With power lines of up to 60 kilovolts, the voltage drops to zero at about 33 feet. However, if the ground is wet, it will be more.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind if you see a downed power line.

- Treat downed power lines, and anything in contact with them, as energized. Stay far away from any downed line.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately. They will dispatch the appropriate power company who has the proper training and equipment necessary for the situation.
- Wait for a power company representative to confirm it is safe to approach the scene. Only the power company can confirm the system has been de-energized, and the scene is safe.

Downed and Dangerous

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous!

Photo Contest Voting

After 41 members submitted photos for our 2021 Photo Contest, online voting has narrowed it down to five photos. Please vote from the below 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 a $50 bill credit, and third a $25 bill credit. **You can also vote on our website until Oct. 19.** We will announce the winners in late October and in December's Power Lines newsletter. Thank you to all who entered photos!

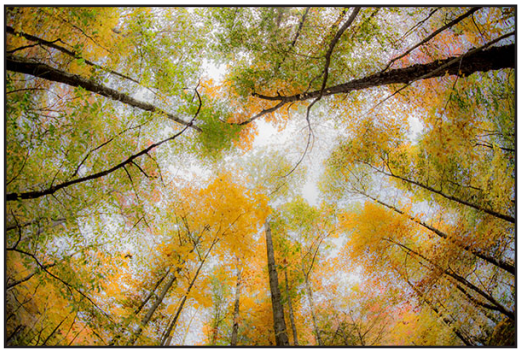


Photo #1

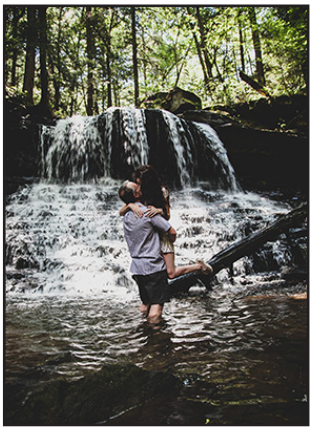


Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

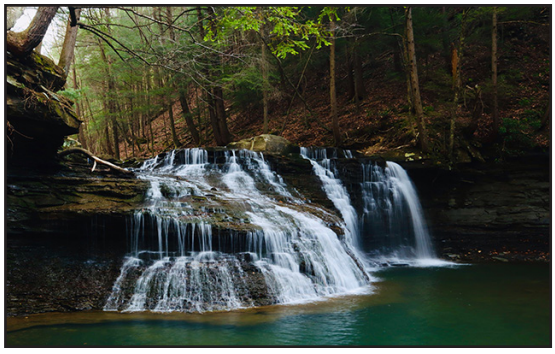


Photo #5

Photo Contest Voting Form

Name:_____

Address:_____

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. 19, 2021.

Recipe of the Month

Easy Oreo Truffles

Ingredients:

- 8-ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 package (about 4-1/4 cups) Oreo cookies, finely crushed
- 2 packages (8 squares each) semi-sweet chocolate, melted

Directions:

Mix cream cheese and 3 cups cookie crumbs until well blended. Shape into 48 (1-inch) balls. Dip in melted chocolate; place on a wax paper covered baking sheet. Sprinkle with remaining cookie crumbs. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm. Store in a tightly covered container in refrigerator.

Thank you to Jessica Mechling for submitting this recipe!

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:
Chris Chalfin of Risingsun
Last Issue's E-Winner:
Dan Reinsel of Franklin

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.

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: Automatic switching equipment may restore power to a downed line without warning.
Answer:_____

2. True or False: Electricity has no bias and will flow in whatever path it can to return to the ground.
Answer:_____

3. True or False: A toaster or convection oven uses more energy than a full-sized oven.
Answer:_____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

_____
_____
_____
_____

Name:_____
Phone:_____
Acct. #:_____

Central Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049
Newsletter Editor: Renee Tritten