

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Honoring Veteran Employees Thank you for your service!



Carla Bradbury



Heather Hakman



IEC Scholarships

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 17 \$2,000 scholarships in 2024. The scholarships will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2023.** The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2024. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carla Bradbury at cbradbury@cmec.coop. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/.



CMEC will be closed Nov. 23 and 24.

SCAM ALERT

'Tis the Season

Scammers are always working to trick us, especially around the holidays. Beware and never give out your personal information. Hang up and call our office anytime you have questions or concerns about your account. If it is an email and you have not requested something specific from us, do not click on or open the email and contact us directly.

AIKMAN Wildlife Adventure

Wild Things

Take a walk on the wild side in our very own footprint. Aikman Wildlife Adventure is located at 125 N. County Road 425 E, Arcola. Their nonprofit organization, SABLE (Saving Animals by Lasting Encounters), was created to provide food, homes and care for their animals. They are hosting their annual **Toast to Wildlife Banquet on Friday, Nov. 10**, which includes dinner, silent and live auction, cash bar and a walk through the Pathway of Lights. What a great adventure close to home! For hours, details or to plan your adventure, visit aikmanwildlife.com.



DON'T LET POWER LINES become part of the landscape

3 Types of Overhead Lines



Transmission Lines



Distribution Lines



Service Drop Lines

Regardless of the type or voltage, any power line can kill if the path of the electrical current is disrupted.



Always look up and look out for power lines when working outdoors.

Be careful any time you go up, whether it be on a ladder, scissor lift or in a cherry picker.



Also look for power lines when:



Operating a crane, concrete pump truck



Raising a truck bed



Using any long tool or equipment that extends

Learn more at:

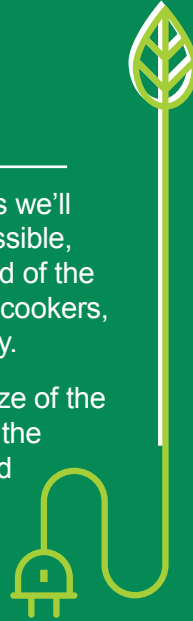
**Safe
Electricity.org**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



REMINDERS

- Use the Smarthub app to view usage, set alerts, pay your bill & more.
- Sign up for Autopay & never be late again.
- Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date co-op news, safety & tips.
- Report outages by calling toll-free: 888-661-2632.

Daylight Saving Time ends



Don't forget to
set your clocks
back an hour
on Nov. 5.

Safety Tip

Renting equipment that takes you higher? Always read and follow all manufacturer's instructions/safety guidelines and look up and look out for overhead power lines before going up.



Safe
Electricity.org®



Powering People

Your electric co-op provides safe, reliable power, focusing on what members want. CMEC is governed by the Seven Cooperative Principles, allowing members to have a say in the decision-making process. We are your neighbors and friends, working alongside you to make our communities better.

Beware of Damaged Power Equipment: Energy Can Spread Like Ripples on a Pond

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time.

However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:

- **Step potential** happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- **Touch potential** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries or death since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to stay safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live. Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 911.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire. If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:
 - Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
 - Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
 - Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.

If you are near the scene:

- Do not approach the scene to help.
- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged padmount transformer.

For more electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Tribute to a Lineman

The call comes in late at night
Wire down people out of lights
You kiss your wife you don't feel like going
The rains pouring and the wind is blowing
Long hours and bad weather, we face it all
The job's not easy, but it was our call
We wanted to be linemen, and climb the tall poles
To keep the meters turning is our main goal
It takes pride, integrity, and a whole lot of guts
To do our job, though some think us nuts
Linemen have a bond, a brotherhood you might say
It comes from the hazards and danger they face every day
You trust your buddy you know he'll be there
To give you a hand high in the air
The wire is big the voltage is high
With God's grace, he won't let you die
When the work is all done, and day is through
We go home to our families, proud of what we do

William D. Jenkins

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop