

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life
of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*

Board of Directors

Gilbert Kroening, *President*

Paul Pyatt, *Vice President*

Raymond Mulholland, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Larry Ebers

Allen Haake

Paul Hicks

Ken Jarrett

Kevin Liefer

Randall Campbell

Office Closings

**Memorial Day,
Monday, May 31**

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the "off" position and then pushing them to the "on" position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 for either office. After office hours call (800) 606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

May is Electrical Safety Month

April showers bring May flowers! After a long, cold and bitter winter, spring is a welcome relief. What a great time to get outside, whether it is to plant or tend to your flower or vegetable gardens, plant or trim trees and shrubs, or just to do some needed maintenance around the home. However you choose to enjoy the spring weather, I want to remind you to be safe with electricity and around electric wires.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are over 400 electrocutions in the United States annually. Ladders contacting power lines are responsible for 9 percent of electrocutions while gardening and farming constitute another 7 percent. Wiring hazards account for another 20 percent.

The electric distribution system that Egyptian Electric Cooperative utilizes, as do all other electric distribution systems, is isolated from items with the ability to conduct electricity. We use porcelain, epoxy and other insulators on top of poles, substations and anywhere else "live" electrical parts exist. We even include the air around the wires as a part of this isolation system.

This system of isolation works well to contain electric current until people or Mother Nature brings unintended items into the isolation zone. Trees or other conductive items brought within the area can cause electricity to take an unintended path, often with terrible results. At a minimum, an outage generally occurs – at worst, injury or death.

Within your home, the electric system uses isolation and insulation to provide safety. Isolation is used within your switch, outlet and main panel, while the covering on wire is used as insulation. Once again, when these are compromised, injury or death can occur.

Outdoor Safety

- Watch out for overhead power lines – those that are a part of the distribution system and those that serve your home or outbuildings. Before trimming or climbing trees, look over head. If trees are near or contacting power lines, do not trim them yourself or have someone who is not qualified do it. If they are near our lines, we'll be happy to trim them safely for you, just give us a call. Before using ladders or power washers, always be aware of where power lines are and give them plenty of room.
- Before digging, call the Illinois One Call system for location of underground electric wires and other utilities at 811. All utilities with service in your area will locate their underground facilities within two working days (M-F).
- Never use electric mowers, trimmers or other electric tools when

Continued on page 16b

Jim Riddle

*Executive
Vice President/
General Manager*



Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.

Continued from page 16a

the grass is wet or in the rain. Never use a damaged or improperly repaired extension cord.

- Make sure all outlets outdoors or in a garage are protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If you are working on a property you are not sure is protected, check with your local hardware or home improvement store for a portable device.



- When washing off your air-conditioner or heat pump coil (we recommend you do this before summer for both and in the fall also for heat pumps), make sure the power to the outdoor unit is disconnected. There should be a service disconnect within reach of the unit. Don't use high pressure to wash as you might damage the fins.
- During lightning storms, always take adequate cover indoors. Discourage use of appliances if at all possible and use surge suppressors on those that must run (refrigerators). Lightning striking overhead or near underground cables can cause over-voltage to damage or destroy appliances.
- When storms do happen, stay away from downed power lines. Electricity cannot be seen, smelt or heard. You may think that downed line is not energized or is not an electric line, but leave that determination to the experts. And even if you really think that line is dead, still stay away. You never know when someone on that circuit may start up a generator that is improperly installed and back-feed the line at 7,200 volts. As we serve rural areas, some of these circuits are over 10 miles long with many taps off them. That

generator could be at the end of the line and still be a problem.

Indoor Safety

- Cover all unused electric outlets with child proof covers. Even if you don't have small children at home, you never know who may visit. And, childproof covers help keep out the cold in winter!
- Never use any electric appliance near water. Portable electric heaters should never be used in bathrooms. If you need additional heat for a cool bathroom, look for one that can be permanently installed. Additionally, all circuits in bathrooms, kitchens and basements must be protected by GFCI's.
- Do not run cords under rugs, carpets or place furniture on them.
- Make sure all light fixtures have bulbs in them. Removing a burned out bulb from a table lamp before having a replace-

ment ready could lead to someone blindly reaching for the switch and accidentally getting a finger in the socket.

- If your home is over 40 years old, consider having a certified electrician do an inspection of your electric system. A few dollars spent on precaution may prevent an electric fire or electrocution.

May is National Electrical Safety month and I urge you to take a moment to stop and think about electric safety. Visit www.safeelectricity.org for information and articles on electric safety around the home, farm or business. There's even a section for teachers and activities for kids. I urge ALL moms and dads, and even grandmas and grandpas, to take a moment with young ones to visit Safe Electricity's Electrical Safety World under the Youth section. You might just keep a loved one safe this spring.

Cover all unused electric outlets with child proof covers.



Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.

Safe Electricity®

now online with social media

In an effort to reach more young consumers where they spend their time, Safe Electricity has launched a new Facebook page, while revamping and expanding its YouTube online video presence.

"We started using YouTube with the launch of "Teach Learn Care TLC" putting on campaign TV PSAs, and added to it as subsequent chapters came out," says Executive Director Molly Hall. "We took a fresh look at the potential and created a new page with the Safe Electricity name, added the full-length videos and other TV PSA productions for a more comprehensive coverage of safety issues."

The YouTube channel features 45 Safe Electricity produced videos in English and Spanish, including the current TLC public service announcements featuring Ashley Taylor and Lee Whittaker. They and two friends survived a car accident involving downed power lines due to early education.

"We hope the YouTube and Facebook initiatives will help others have a happy ending as well," Hall said.

YouTube viewers will hear Ashley and Lee relate their harrowing story of survival after learning to remain in the vehicle, a lesson taught at the type of seminars sponsored by Safe Electricity.

The video and PSA presentations feature reactions from the mishap survivors, who are the focus of the 2010 TLC campaign. The YouTube channel can be viewed at www.youtube.com/safeelectricity.

There are 10 short videos featuring the family of Caitlyn McKenzie, whose young life was tragically ended in a backyard electrical mishap after swimming. Caitlyn's life was spotlighted in the first 2008 TLC campaign.

A third series of videos features Shawn Miller and his family, after he miraculously survived contact with a high voltage line while decorating with outdoor Christmas lights, as told in the 2009 TLC campaign.

Other video presentations urge homeowners and farmers to stay clear of utility lines and equipment, warn youngsters to stay away from electrical substations, advise safe water recreation, and cover other topics.

The Safe Electricity fan page on Facebook can be found by typing "Safe Electricity" into the Facebook search function. The Facebook page is limited to members and is available to the vast worldwide network of Facebook subscribers. Safe Electricity encourages all members to view the material available on YouTube and Facebook, and share it with loved ones.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is a member of Safe Electricity and encourages you to visit www.safeelectricity.org on a regular basis for safety information and for safety activities for your children or grandchildren. Just one more way we are improving the quality of life of our member-owners.



Illinois Electric Cooperatives announce energy grant program

Although not official at the time of this writing, we anticipate the announcement of a new energy efficiency rebate program available for cooperative members. This rebate program is in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (ILDCEO) and uses American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds. The program is to be officially announced May 10 - cooperative personnel will receive training in a workshop scheduled for May 7.

At this time, we believe the process to be as follows. To qualify, members will need to contact Egyptian Electric Cooperative to schedule a walk-through energy audit to analyze energy efficiency improvements (we've been told there may be a \$25 charge for the audit). The member will then obtain bids for recommended improvements and submit them to us. We will then submit these to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield for approval. If approved, the AIEC will then issue a check to the member.

Anticipated improvements qualifying for rebates are geothermal heat pumps, air-air heat pumps, central air conditioners, heat pump water heaters and insulation and weatherization items.

At this time, not all rules and procedures have been released to us, but we believe this to be the basic concept of the program. For additional information, please visit our Web site, www.eeca.coop after May 10 for more complete information.

Commitment to Community: We show compassion, care and courtesy to our members and the communities we serve.

Nominating Committee appointed

Pursuant to the By-Laws of Egyptian Electric Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 72nd annual meeting of its members at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday evening, July 27, 2010, at the American Legion hall, 303 S. Chester Street, Steeleville, Ill.

Notice is also given that the terms of office of directors Allen Haake, Murphysboro, Ken Jarrett, Gorham, and Kevin Liefer, Red Bud, will expire at the annual meeting.

The board of directors of the Cooperative has appointed the following persons as a nominating committee:

Robert Arthur, Carbondale
Russell Biggs, Carbondale
Richard Fager, Murphysboro

John Helmers, Steeleville
Kenneth Hollmann, Gorham
Stuart Langrehr, Evansville
Roger Morganstern, Pinckneyville
Loren Prest, Sparta
Donald Stallman, Chester

The nominating committee will meet at the office of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, 1005 W. Broadway, Steeleville, Ill., at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors, and any interested members may attend the meeting and participate.

The by-laws provide that the nominating committee, upon making their nominations, will prepare a list of nominations for directors and post the list at the office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

The by-laws also provide that any 15 or more members may make other

nominations in writing not less than 60 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made from members at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member will be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of the members and that proxy voting is prohibited.

A member having questions regarding the above proceedings may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information.

Copies of the by-laws of the Cooperative are available and can be obtained at the Cooperative offices located at Steeleville and Murphysboro, mailed to you upon request or found on our Web site at www.eeca.coop.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Mulholland
Secretary

Debunking Home Energy

Myths



Energy costs are on the rise and everybody wants to save. Problem is, there is a lot of confusion about what works and doesn't work to reduce energy use. Each month from now until we run out of myths, we will feature a misconception about energy savings. So, each month look for the myth, clip it and save it for future reference.

Myth: *Closing registers and doors to rooms not used can reduce my air-conditioning or heating bill.*

False. Not likely. And, you could do serious harm to your air conditioner or heat pump.

In southern Illinois, many of our homes have duct systems that are outside the building envelope, the area we insulate and intend to live in. This non-envelope area includes attics, crawlspaces and un-conditioned basements. As mentioned last month, all ductwork leaks unless someone has taken the time and effort to seal it with duct mastic. When registers are closed off, the pressure within the duct system will rise, increasing air leakage and wasting energy. It can also cause pressure imbalances as we discussed last month.

If you close off too many registers, you could also damage your air conditioner or heat pump. Air conditioners and heat pumps use a refrigerated system that has been designed to function based on certain levels of air flow across the coil that is in the ductwork. Shutting registers off is similar to having a dirty filter. When there is not enough air flow across the coil, the system cannot function as designed and will cause high refrigerant pressures that can damage compressors. That's also why it is important to wash the outside unit down each spring and fall (make sure you disconnect the electricity first).

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.