



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2012

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288
(618) 965-3434
(888) 554-8181 fax

10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 684-2143

(800) 606-1505 after hours
www.eeca.coop

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle
Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

- Paul Pyatt, President
- Raymond Mulholland, Vice President
- Kevin Liefer, Secretary-Treasurer
- Randall Campbell
- Larry Ebers
- Allen Haake
- Paul Hicks
- Ken Jarrett
- Gilbert Kroening

Office Closing

Memorial Day,
Monday, May 28

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to ensure none of them have tripped.
2. Look at your meter. If you can read the numbers on the LCD display, there is power to the meter; you will need to check further for a breaker that has tripped or a fuse that has blown. If there are no numbers present on the display, there is no power to the meter.
3. During office hours, call:
Steeleville..... 618-965-3434
Murphysboro..... 618-684-2143
After hours, call..... 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.



May is National Electric Safety Month

As May is National Electric Safety Month, I would like to urge you to raise your awareness concerning potential home electrical hazards and the importance of safety around electricity. Each year, home electrical fires alone cause 450 deaths, over 1,500 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage. That does not include the thousands of children and adults who are injured or killed by electrical contact annually.

While some might say that electricity is dangerous, if you think about it, it's not electricity that is dangerous, but rather the things we do, the tools we use or the way we use electricity that is dangerous. Electricity cannot think, it cannot rationalize. But we can. By using safe appliances, safe work practices and employing common sense; we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

Home Appliance Check

- Start by making sure the appliances around your home are safe.
- Inspect the cords of appliances and tools before using. If cords are frayed, cracked or missing parts, do not use until a proper repair has been made.
- Do not place cords or extension cords under carpets, rugs or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them in place. (I was recently in a restaurant that was holding a sign cord in place with push pins inserted through the middle of the cord!)
- If an appliance has a

three-prong plug, only use it in a three-slot outlet. Never remove the grounding pin from an appliance or extension cord.

- Make sure outlets near sinks, in the garage or outdoors are ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.
- Do not install an incandescent light bulb larger than the fixture is rated for. The additional heat generated by the larger bulb could lead to a fire.
- Be sure all electric equipment bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.

Proper Wiring and Receptacles

Proper wiring, wiring techniques, wire size and equipment are imperative for safety around the farm, home or business. In order to save money, some homeowners and businesses take short-cuts and do not install the proper safety devices or wire size. If you do not know the proper method of installing a circuit, replacing a switch or outlet, or installing equipment, the small amount of additional cost to hire a licensed electrician could be relatively small compared to the cost of a fire or electrical contact

► Continued on page 16b

Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

■ Continued from page 16a

or burn. If in doubt, hire it done properly.

■ GFCIs are designed to measure the current going out from it and the current returning to it. In the event of a short circuit, the returning current is reduced and the device immediately shuts off the flow of electricity. GFCIs should be used near sinks, garages and all outdoor circuits.

■ Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) have sensors that monitor arcing conditions. In the event of a loose or overheated circuit or switch or outlet, the AFCI senses the arcing and shuts the current off to the

present, consider having Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRR) installed. TRRs have spring loaded cover plates over the slots. When equal pressure is applied, such as when inserting a plug, the covers open. Without equal pressure, such as a child attempting to insert something into the outlet, the covers will not open. Each year, over 2,400 children under the age of ten are treated in emergency rooms for injuries resulting from tampering with an outlet.

■ Extension cords are for temporary use, not permanent installations. If you are permanently

lines, causing power lines and poles to break.

■ After a storm, use caution when removing downed trees and limbs, energized power lines could easily be underneath the rubble and be unseen. Never touch or move a downed wire. Only trained linemen can determine if a line is energized or not. Even if your home is without power, it does not mean all circuits are off. Many of our lines are three-phase; one of the downed wires may be a different phase than the one you are served by and could still be energized and laying on the ground. And sometimes it may be difficult to differentiate a power line from a cable TV or phone circuit.

■ If using a generator, use proper precautions and always follow the operating manual. Portable generators should only be used to directly power individual appliances. If you intend to use one to power up your home, have an electrician install a double-throw disconnect switch and make sure it is large enough to handle the load. A double-throw switch will prevent the generator from putting electricity back into the transformer and onto our lines that could injure linemen or others. Never use a generator indoors.

Electricity is a great tool that does a lot of work for us and makes our lives much easier and comfortable. Without electricity, we would have to live our lives similar to our ancestors in the 1800s. Just keep in mind that electricity does not have the ability to think or reason; only we can do that. Take time now to correct issues around your home. As you work around your home, farm or business, pay attention to where overhead and underground lines may be.

For more tips and information on electric safety, visit www.safeelectricity.org.



circuit. Some codes and communities require AFCIs to be installed on all bedroom circuits (check with a licensed electrician or your code office).

■ Installing too small of a wire for the load or installing a breaker or fuse that is larger than the rated ampacity of the wire can lead to fires and dangerous conditions. Using too small of extension cords for the load can also cause a voltage drop that can damage the tool being used.

■ Never use electric appliances or tools in damp conditions, such as an electric trimmer when the grass is damp from dew or rain.

■ If small children are

installing an appliance or tool and there is not an outlet within reach of the cord, have a licensed electrician install a new outlet.

Storm Damage and Repairs

With the region already being hit by a devastating tornado on Leap Day, there is no question spring storms came early this year. High winds, tornadoes and lightning play havoc with any electric distribution system, especially those serving rural areas with trees and rugged topography. Many of our members have purposely chosen to live in rural areas so they can enjoy nature, scenery and trees. High winds can cause tree and limbs to fall and strike power

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

Tornado Safety Tips

Practice and Prepare

Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Funnel, Inc.



Mark your calendar

Egyptian Electric Annual Meeting

July 26

American Legion Hall
- Steeleville

Rural Youth Day

Six area high school students represented Egyptian Electric at Illinois Rural Youth Day in Springfield on March 28.

The students visited the Illinois Supreme Court and area elected leaders in the morning and visited the Lincoln Museum and the Old State Capital in the afternoon. Representatives Bost and Costello and Senator Luechtefeld met with students on the east lawn of the Capitol.

Four of the students will represent the Cooperative in Washington D.C. this summer as part of the National Youth to Washington program. They will join over 60 other students and 900 nationally to learn how our government functions and to visit historic sites.

In addition to the six students that were selected this year, Christine Lee from Coulterville joined the group. Christine was a 2011 Youth to



Pictured left-right front row; Nina McLernon, Carbondale; Alicen Torres, Ellkville; Lydia Jaja, Sparta; Christine Lee, Coulterville. Back row: Collin Smith, Pinckneyville; Matthew Rehmer, Marissa; and Matthew Huff, Coulterville.

Washington participant and was selected by her peers on the trip to represent Illinois on the national Youth Leadership Council (YLC). As a YCL participant, Christine traveled to the Annual Meeting of the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association in San Diego and to the Annual Meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. Christine's term will expire in June when the 2012 YLC representative is selected.

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

Illinois Country Living • May 2012 • 16c

Nominating committee appointed

To: Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the Cooperative will hold its 74th annual meeting of its members on Thursday evening July 26, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway on Chester Street.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors Randall Campbell, Chester, Paul Hicks, Carbondale, Paul Pyatt, Pinckneyville, will expire at said annual meeting.

Notice is further given that the board of directors of the Cooperative has appointed the following named persons as a nominating committee:

Robert Arthur, Carbondale
 Russell Biggs, Carbondale
 Richard Fager, Murphysboro
 Virgil Gramenz, Steeleville
 Kenneth Hollmann, Gorham
 Stuart Langrehr, Evansville
 Roger Morganstern,
 Pinckneyville
 Loren Prest, Sparta
 Kenneth Young, Chester

Notice is further given that the above nominating committee will meet at the Steeleville office of the Cooperative, located at 1005 West

Broadway, Steeleville, Illinois, on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

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

The by-laws further provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from members at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member shall 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, or mailed to you upon your request.

Respectfully submitted,
 Kevin Liefer
 Secretary

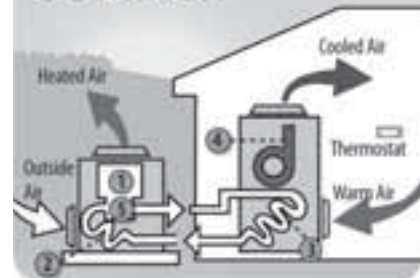


Follow EgyptianCoop on Twitter to keep informed of outage status & important things you should know about your electric cooperative!

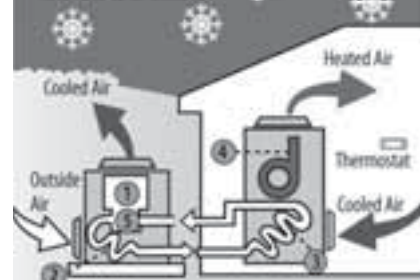
How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

SUMMER



WINTER



- 1 Compressor**
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
- 2 Condenser**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 3 Evaporator**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 4 Air Handler**
Fan blows air into a home's ducts.
- 5 Reversing Valve**
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.