



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



October 2010

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288
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(618) 965-3111 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

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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

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.

Why 130 million people choose cooperatives

This month cooperative members worldwide will join together to celebrate Co-op Month 2010 and this year's theme: Local. Trusted. Serving you. Do you remember why you chose membership with Egyptian Electric Cooperative? It may be among many reasons shared by 130 million people who have also chosen cooperatives, but it most likely has something to do with the common philosophy of people helping people.

Unlike other businesses, cooperatives are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run, member-owned enterprises. They exist to serve their members, and that level of service remains high even during even the toughest times. Instead of issuing stock or paying dividends to outside shareholders, co-ops provide value to their members through their level of customer services.

This year's theme for Co-op Month celebrates the advantages of cooperative membership. Value, trust and service are just some of the many benefits of being a cooperative member. You are in charge of the product and services you choose to purchase and you have a role to play in determining which should be sold by your cooperative.

These are similar to the core values Egyptian Electric uses daily: integrity, accountability, commitment to community and teamwork. If you look at the first letter of each value, they spell I ACT. We encourage our employees to think of the values in

this way: I ACT with integrity, I ACT with accountability, etc. They are the yardstick we use to measure performance and actions.

This month is the kick-off of the Lite for a Bite program for our members. Bring us non-perishable food items and we'll swap for up to four CFL light bulbs. Lite for a Bite is just one of the ways we exhibit our I ACT values: integrity by helping you save energy, accountability by helping the environment by using less natural resources, commitment to community by helping those in need and teamwork by teaming up with you and our employees to make this a successful program. I ACT.

Here at Egyptian Electric, we are proud of our cooperative structure and our connection to the more than 29,000 cooperatives and over 950 electric cooperatives in the United States. We are even more proud of our core values. If any of our employees do not act with integrity, accountability, commitment to community or teamwork when interacting with you, please let their supervisor or me know immediately.

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Jim Riddle

*Executive
Vice President/
General Manager*



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



LITE 4 BITE

October has been designated National Cooperative Month since 1930. As part of our commitment to community, Egyptian Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Cooperative Month by promoting energy efficiency, while collecting food for our local communities.

Beginning October 1, members will receive one free CFL (up to a maximum of four CFLs while supplies last) for each commercially canned or packaged non-perishable food item you bring into either the Steeleville or Murphysboro office. The CFL is a 23 watt bulb, comparable to a 100 watt incandescent bulb.

As we celebrate National Cooperative month in October, we are reminded of the seven Rochdale Principles that are the basis of our cooperative. They were originally set out by the Rochdale Society of Equitable

Pioneers in Rochdale, England in 1844. They have been the basis on which cooperatives around the world have been formed and operate still today.

- I.** Voluntary and open membership
- II.** Democratic member control
- III.** Member economic participation
- IV.** Autonomy and independence
- V.** Education, training and information
- VI.** Cooperation among cooperatives
- VII.** Concern for community

As we enter National Cooperative Month, what better way to celebrate, than for our Cooperative and our members to show concern for community by helping others? Please, help us help those in need, while saving energy in your homes and businesses.



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

Dear Fellow Cooperative Members:

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) was recently the target of several environmental groups regarding our quarterly groundwater testing results. SIPC has been testing groundwater within its plant boundaries for over twenty years. We even test two "background wells" located outside our plant boundary that are not affected by groundwater flow from our plant for comparison purposes.

These environmental groups targeted our plant due to national hearings being held by the USEPA in regards to coal ash handling by power plants. The USEPA is considering regulation to label coal ash as a hazardous waste. If the USEPA does regulate coal ash accordingly, the cost of compliance would be expensive and would increase the cost of generating electricity nationwide. It would also prohibit coal ash from being used as an additive in concrete, sheet rock and other products.

The groups targeted SIPC due to a letter we had received from IEPA questioning some of our groundwater tests, particularly those that showed values of iron higher than Class I (drinking) water standards. We replied to IEPA that we would investigate the situation, re-work our older wells to assure their accuracy (they had steel casing caps), and get back with them by the end of September; which, of course, we will.

The drinking water (Class I) standard for iron is set at five parts per million (5 PPM); that is 0.000005 ounces of iron per ounce of water. I know I do not need to tell some of you that well water in our area of the state has contained a good amount of iron for years. I remember playing grade school basketball at area schools and seeing iron residue on the water fountain and tasting iron in the water. Accordingly, we have seen iron levels above drinking water standards in the background wells we test off-site.

It is not unusual for the water effluent from a power plant, especially one built in 1963, to exceed drinking water standards. We have been regulated by "industrial" water standards, and SIPC is proud of its record of compliance with those standards. Over the years, SIPC has continued to improve its environmental record as we have decreased all pollutants in air, land, or water. I wanted to take this opportunity to assure all of you that SIPC will continue to be a good environmental steward, while providing cost-effective power to our members.

Respectfully yours,

Leonard Hopkins

Leonard F. Hopkins, P.E.
Fuel Procurement & Compliance Manager
Southern Illinois Power Cooperative

Why 130 million people choose cooperatives (cont.)

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As we work with integrity, accountability, commitment and teamwork, value, trust and service are what you expect from us. Without the four core values, we will never earn

your trust, you will not value your membership and our service will not meet your expectations.

This month we join all cooperatives and their members around the United States to celebrate Co-op Month in

recognition of the benefits and values cooperatives bring to their members.

Check out our website www.eeca.coop for more information about cooperatives and prepare to celebrate the cooperative difference.

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

College Living

As college and university students make their treks to the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and campuses nationwide, whether into residence halls, apartments or fraternities, it is imperative that they first learn about electrical safety. As part of the “Teach Learn Care: TLC” campaign, Safe Electricity and Egyptian Electric Cooperative urges everyone to make sure their college bound students take precautions to prevent and protect themselves from campus-related fires and shocks.

Reports throughout the years of campus fires have been on the rise. Just like any other area, a campus is prone to a variety of violations. And dorm rooms are not immune. Often times students innocently plug in all of the typical college tools – study lamps, laptops, TV’s, stereos, grooming, food prep appliances and other electrical devices – unaware of the potential dangers. Rather than chance a mishap that could be avoided, be sure that your student is educated on safe appliance use and precautions against electrical hazards.

According to Campus Firewatch, the most common causes of student residence fires are due to “careless smoking, unattended candles and cooking, and overloaded extension cords and power outlets.”

“The limited number of electrical outlets in student rooms tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards,” warns Jay Solomon, Extension Engineering Educator and member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “Student residences crammed with books, papers and bedding can allow the smallest spark to quickly become a blaze.”



Safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing include:

- Purchase and use only electrical appliances and power cords which have been tested by UL and other nationally recognized testing labs.
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Never use extension cords on a continuous basis; they serve as temporary solutions only.
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps; if no indication is on the fixture, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. Check with your campus about possible restrictions regarding the use of halogen lamps. Always keep halogen lamps away from curtains, loose bedding, or other fabrics.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) equipped. Test

any GFCI's upon first use and monthly thereafter.

- Unplug small household appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

Older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, disconnect the appliance immediately and report the condition to the landlord or campus housing staff.

A fire escape plan is essential. It is important that apartment and dorm residents know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the event of a fire.

Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, nor should fire alarms ever be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building. Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent fire spread.

“It is important to remind and stress to students that in the event of a fire, follow safety procedures and get out of harm's way immediately,” remarked Solomon. “Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot.”

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.