Egyptian Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2012

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288

10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966

(800) 606-1505
(888) 554-8181 fax
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

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

Office Closings

Christmas Day,
Tuesday, December 25

New Years Day,
Tuesday, January 1, 2013

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. To report an outage, call 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.

The Cost of Building an Electric System

One of the questions our Member Service Representatives get asked from time to time is, "What is the Facility Charge for that is on my bill each month?' The easy answer to this question is that it is the cost the Cooperative incurs to have the electric system available to each of its members no matter whether they use any electricity or not.

If you left home for a month and were able to turn everything off and use no electricity, you might anticipate you would not have a bill. You didn't use any electricity, so the Cooperative didn't have any costs. The truth however is that the Cooperative does continue to incur costs whether you use electricity or not. We still have a transformer in place, poles, wire and other miscellaneous pole attachments to make sure when you turn the switch on, power flows to your home.

We also must have offices and personnel in place so that billing, outage restoration and other activities occur. We have to have service and construction line trucks ready to restore service for you in the event of a storm and to maintain the electric distribution system. And we have to have computers and software to track and facilitate those activities. We even have to have a phone system in place and ready even if everyone decided not to call us this month. I don't believe you would be happy if we told you we were getting rid of our phones to reduce costs and you would need to stop by the office to report an outage or to discuss a billing question!

What does it cost to build and maintain an electric system? Let's look at some of the obvious items we use that most members are familiar with, a 35 foot pole for example. A wood pole alone is $224.00 and with almost 40,000 poles on our system, that's a replacement value of nearly $9 million. That does not include any wire, grounds, insulators or other equipment that gets installed on the average pole. The insulator and metal pin that holds the insulator at the top of a pole are about $11.00. On a three phase feeder circuit, the pins on the arm are even more expensive and there are two of them.

With over 11,500 transformers on our system, they are our major investment. A transformer that feeds an average home (15 kVa) costs about $800.00. A larger 25 kVa transformer required for many of the larger homes today is $985.00 for one on a pole, or $1,400.00 if used with underground service. Transformers that feed larger industrial members can cost $25,000 or more.

To protect the electric distribution system, our members, and the general public, switches are used to de-energize circuits in the event of a short circuit. Switches range from $84.00 for the least expensive fused

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Jim Riddle
Executive
Vice President/
General Manager

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

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switch to thousands of dollars for those in our substations. With over 4,000 total switches and 20 distribution substations on the system, you can imagine there is quite an investment in switches.

I'm sure almost all of you have had 'sticker shock' at some time or another when replacing a vehicle. Try purchasing a new line truck. Construction bucket trucks are $180,000 or higher, digger-derricks start at around $200,000. While our crews take good care of our equipment, it does wear out and has to be replaced from time to time.

We also have to keep the vehicles in good repair. I don't think you would be too happy with us if we told you we couldn't replace the broken pole down the road to get your power back on because our truck wouldn't start. To reduce the amount of planned outages when we are doing maintenance work, several years ago we started changing poles and cross-arms using live-line work practices. This requires trucks to be inspected by a third party twice a year to ensure the safety of our personnel.

Another on-going cost is computers and software. Thirty-five years ago, Egyptian had a very basic computer to track a portion of the Cooperative's business. There were no computer screens on desks and daily billing payments were tracked manually. If you had a billing question, representatives looked your account up on paper journals printed on 'green bar' computer paper. You may have waited 5-10 minutes for an answer or even asked if you could be called back later with the answer. Today our member representatives can pull your account up in seconds and answer your question in moments. All thanks to desktop computers and servers over the internet. Granted, we have fewer employees today than we did 35 years ago, but there is still an on-going cost as software and computers must be continually upgraded.

How much the monthly facility charge should be is a matter of rate design. If you asked ten rate specialists to conduct a rate study to determine what costs should be in the facility charge and which should be in the kWh or energy charge, you most likely would get ten different answers. In general though, most would agree the costs of having the electric service available whether electricity is used or not should make up the monthly facility charge.

The fact is that all electric utilities have to cover the fixed costs of having an electric system available for use. Costs can be recouped in a facility charge or in the per kWh charge. If they are recouped in the per kWh charge, those using more electricity would pay more for having an electric system available. While some costs are due to higher usages (substation and circuit upgrades), most costs are not affected by usage. Our goal is to be as fair in the rate process as possible. Those costs that are on-going and not affected by energy usage go into the facility charge while those that increase with higher levels of energy usage are recouped in the per kWh charge.

I hope the next time you look at your bill you may have a better understanding why there is a facility charge and what it constitutes. An interesting side note, one of our members recently brought in one of their billing books from 1949. At that time, there was a 'minimum bill' of $3.09. It did include 40 kWh's of electricity, but that minimum bill was actually no different than a facility charge. It was just another way of doing it.

Sign up for budget billing

Do the highs of winter and summer get you down? Or should we say behind? We know for many of our members the higher usage months of winter and summer can be tough to budget for. Signing up now for budget billing can help relieve the stress of those larger months.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative's Budget Billing program allows you to level out those higher bills and pay the same amount each month. That's why it's called budget billing. You can budget for the same amount each month.

To participate in the budget billing option, you must own your home and have lived there for a year or more. We then take your annual usage and spread it out over 11 months. This provides you a cushion for unexpected weather and possibly keeps you from owing a large settle-up amount at the end of the budget billing cycle.

Although you pay the same amount each month, you still receive a bill showing you the exact amount of electricity you used and the amount of that month's bill. Then in May, we settle-up, deducting any credit or including any under-payment.

To remain in the program, you must keep your account current. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.

Another option you may want to consider is the automatic payment plan (ACH). Each month the amount of your bill will be sent from your bank account (checking or savings) to the Cooperative on the due date of your bill. No more late fees, checking fees or paying postage.

To sign up for either of these payment plans, please contact the office nearest you.

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

It's Here!

As simple as 55050

Report a power outage with a text from your cell phone.

How does it work?

When you text the word 'outage' to 55050 it notifies us that you are without power. You will then receive a text that says 'Outage reported successfully'. When we've restored service, you will get a second message that says 'Outage restored'.

Advantages of Outage Texting

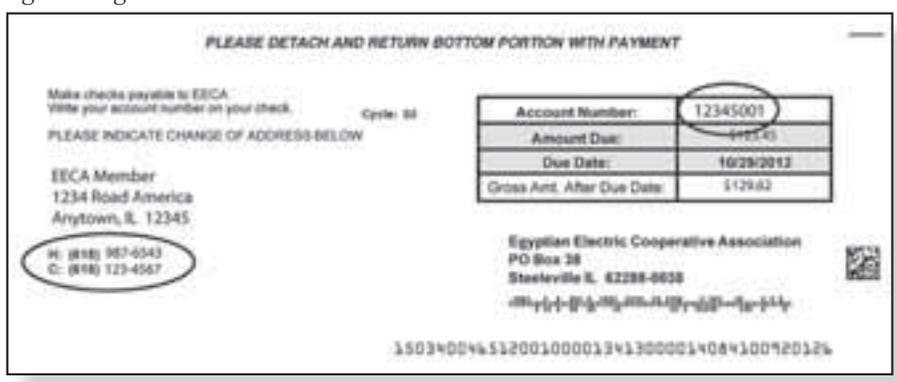
- Quick and easy
- No waiting on hold during large outages
- Confirmation that your outage has been reported
- Can be used for multiple services by adding a key word to each account
- Additional cell phone numbers for family members or businesses can be input
- Notification that service has been restored

To setup outage texting, your primary cell phone must be in our database. You can verify that we have your number by looking at the lower portion of your billing statement. If the letter 'C' is followed by your correct cell phone number, you're ready to setup outage texting.

If we do not have your correct number, you will need to provide it to us by calling 800-606-1505. You will then have to wait 24 hours to setup your outage texting.

If your correct number is in place or you've waited the 24 hours, you can setup outage texting by going to www.eeca.coop and the Outage Texting page under the MyService tab. Just follow the instructions there.

Usage and texting charges from your wireless provider may apply.


PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH PAYMENT

Make checks payable to EECA
Write your account number on your check.

Cycle: 02

PLEASE INDICATE CHANGE OF ADDRESS BELOW

EECA Member
1234 Road America
Anytown, IL 12345

H: (618) 987-6543
C: (618) 123-4567

Account Number:	12345001
Amount Due:	$129.62
Due Date:	10/29/2012
Gross Amt. After Due Date:	$129.62

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association
PO Box 38
Steeleville IL 62288-0038

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twitter

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

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

International Line Rodeo

Linemen from Egyptian Electric Cooperative participated in the 29th annual International Lineman's Rodeo hosted by Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy on Friday, October 12, in Bonner Springs, KS. The primary purpose of the event is to focus on safety and safe work practices, to provide a forum for the public to better understand and recognize the technical skills linemen have, and to provide an opportunity for professionals in the line work trade to receive recognition for their skills.

The Egyptian Electric Cooperative team of Andy Ahner, Matt McElroy, and Mike Smith claimed fourth place in the hurt man rescue event, putting them on the podium during the closing recognition banquet.

The International Lineman's Rodeo, held on the grounds of the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, coincided with an expo that provided for the exchange of ideas and product information about the latest technological innovations and services related to the power delivery industry. Over 3,000 electric distribution employees attended the annual event.

Linemen are scored in their proficiency, skill and safety in four events: Hurt-man Rescue, Pole Climb, and two mystery events that are unannounced until the day of the event. This year's mystery events required teams to change out a cross-arm on a simulated energized line using rubber gloving techniques and to change the wire wraps that secure a conductor to an insulator using fiberglass sticks.

Events are scored by time and safety. Any action or situation that is deemed unsafe during the event by a team results in a penalty, or 'ding.' Placement is by speed of all teams with no dings, then by teams with one ding, then by teams with two dings, etc. An example of a ding is when a lineman loses his footing while ascending or descending a pole, commonly called a 'kick-out'.

The team from Egyptian Electric Cooperative finished 70th among 205 teams from some of the largest utilities in the nation. Had one of the team's members not kicked out on the pole climb event, they quite possibly would have finished in the top thirty teams. Scot Alms, Operations Superintendent Murphysboro said, "The pole climb is like most any individual athletic event. You're trying to go as fast as you can and it only takes a slight slip to affect your performance. And these guys were climbing poles that had gouges in them from prior participants and it was pouring rain by the time they got their chance to climb."

The team was sponsored by IBEW Local 702 and the Cooperative.

Don't be Fooled!

The more things change, the more they stay the same. This is a French proverb that makes the observation that turbulent changes do not affect reality. That very much depicts an ad I recently saw in the local newspaper concerning a "new low-cost appliance that slashes heat bills." I'm sure you're familiar with the one I'm speaking about; they even call it the 'Miracle Heater' and it has a wooden cabinet that looks like a fireplace.

Reality is this is nothing more than an electric heater. It will not miraculously heat your home or room. There are 3,412 btu's in a kWh and that's all this heater will deliver. The same as any portable electric heater you can purchase anywhere for one-tenth the price of a Miracle Heater.

Any electric heater might possibly reduce your total electric bill if you turn the thermostat on the whole-house heating system down to 59 degrees as they suggest and only heat the room you are in. It's called zone heating and was the advantage that baseboard heat has provided for many years. But the fact is, making heat with electric resistance is not inexpensive.

If you turn the heat down in the rest of the house, then the Miracle heater will most likely run constantly in an attempt to heat not only the room it's in, but also the remainder of the home. For every hour a portable heater is on, it uses 1.5 kWh's. This doesn't sound like much until you multiply it by 24 for the hours in a day and then by 30 for the days in the month. Now you have a staggering 1,080 kWh's. With the new rate, you're looking at nearly $115.00 to operate the portable heater. Plus the energy used by the main heat system to maintain the 59 degrees in the rest of the house.

I won't go into all of the false advertising that is in the full page ads, but remember, the Amish do not like their photo be taken, let alone published in a newspaper ad. They hold humility as a highly cherished value and feel that photos call attention to one 's self.

We're not saying you shouldn't purchase these heaters; just be aware they most likely will not reduce your energy consumption and could in reality increase your usage dramatically.

Cost per million btu's of heat		
Electric resistant heat (baseboard, portable heaters)	$0.103/kWh	$30.18
Electric Heat Pump (3.6 COP)	$0.103/kWh	$ 8.38
Geothermal Heat Pump (4.1 COP)	$0.103/kWh	$ 7.36
Propane Furnace (92% AFUE)	$2.20/gallon	$26.18
Natural Gas Furnace (92% AFUE)	$0.90/therm	$ 9.78

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.