



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

WE KEEP THEM
UP HERE FOR A
REASON.

STAY CLEAR OF
DOWNED
POWER LINES.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.

From the President's desk...

We all want the best for the people in our lives our family, friends, community and others. That includes you, our members.

It's why we make safety a top priority at McDonough Power and devote time and energy to making everyone aware of how to stay safe around electricity.

For instance, if you're working with tall ladders, cleaning gutters or trimming trees, or undertaking other projects outside, we remind you to look up for and stay safely away from overhead power lines, especially those connected to your home.

If a project involves digging, be sure to call 8-1-1 a few working days in advance to get underground utilities marked.

Help children understand the importance of staying away from electric utility equipment, to never climb trees near power lines, and to fly kites in wide open spaces safely away from power lines.

Know how to prepare for and stay safe after storms and other natural disasters that could leave behind hidden electrical hazards, such as downed power lines and submerged electrical devices.

These are just some of the safety measures that we want you and everyone to know. **9112D6A-466A**

We don't want anyone to take a chance that could end in tragedy, and to help, we're a partner in the Safe Electricity program. We encourage you to visit

SafeElectricity.org, where you'll find life-saving information presented in videos, interactive games for children, online teacher resources and much more.

We have the safest, most reliable electric system of any country in the world, but we aren't content to rest on those laurels. We value your safety and well-being and we'll continue working to educate everyone on important safety considerations.

After all, aren't you and the people you care about worth it? We think so. In fact, we know so.

Have a great, safe day!

Mike Smith
President and CEO





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**All Co-op Electric
 Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
 The power of human connections



Why we plan outages

Have you ever received a notification from the folks here at McDonough Power Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most. **527C9-956A**

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. We typically notify you 3 to 5 days before an outage, so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at McDonough Power, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

High School Seniors – 10 Scholarships worth \$2,000 each!

Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program
 Ten scholarships will be awarded for the 2016-2017 school year.

5	Scholarships are available for the sons/daughters of Illinois cooperative members for any two or four year accredited college in the United States.
1	Scholarship is reserved for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative employee or director for any school in the United States.
3	Scholarships are available for the sons/daughters of Illinois cooperative members, employees, or directors for an Illinois community college.
1	Scholarship is reserved to help pay for costs to attend lineworker’s school conducted by AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois. This scholarship is for the son or daughter of an Illinois cooperative member, employee, or director; an individual who has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard; or an individual enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker’s school.

To apply, visit www.mcdonoughpower.com.
 The deadline for general scholarships is December 31, 2015.
 The deadline for the lineworker’s scholarship is April 30, 2016.

Ready, Set, Winterize!

Since home heating makes up a significant portion of a utility bill, it is a sensible area of focus for energy efficiency improvements and savings. In fact, many of the actions you can take to be more energy efficient can pay for themselves over time. The Energy Education Council has tips to help you make energy efficient choices now in order to help you decrease your monthly utility bill this winter.

Make a habit of cleaning your furnace annually in the fall months. Removing a season of built-up debris (especially if you have pets) can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently.

Also, remember to replace your furnace filter during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the air flow and make your home more energy efficient (with the added benefit of cleaner air in your home).

If it is time to replace the furnace itself, look for energy-efficient models. Furnaces with an Energy Star rating usually exceed federal standards for energy efficiency and can make choosing the right model that much easier.

Installing an energy-efficient furnace can reduce your energy consumption and the cost of heating your house.



Check your home for air leaks. You can use the following method to check for them. On a windy day, hold

a lit incense stick or smoke pen next to anywhere you think a leak may be (usually windows, doors, attic hatches, or any other opening to the outside). If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have found an air leak.

There are a variety of actions you can take to plug the leak, depending on its location. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps:

- Caulk and add weather stripping to doors and windows that leak air.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.

When you are away from home or sleeping, turning the thermostat down a few degrees in cold weather months can also help reduce your monthly utility bill. For an even more hassle-free option, install a programmable thermostat that can automatically make the adjustments for you. **6315ME26-708B**



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

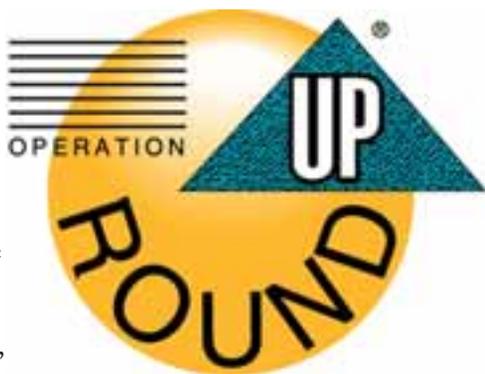
Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout *The Wire*. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Operation Round Up® Begins This Month

Ben Franklin once said, “A penny saved is a penny earned.” A frugal and financially savvy man, he was never one to scoff at the value of even one cent. At McDonough Power Cooperative, we believe in the power of pennies, too. That’s why we’re launching a community service program call Operation Roundup.

Beginning in November, McDonough Power members will have their bills automatically “rounded up” to the next highest dollar – a \$68.45 bill becomes \$69.00, for example. Multiplied by thousands of participants’ contributions, that’s a lot of pennies!



The Operation Roundup fund will be administered by a five-member Trust Committee, comprised of McDonough Power members, appointed by the McDonough Power

Cooperative Board. Trust Committee members volunteer their time and, except for optional mileage reimbursement, receive no pay or compensation for serving on the committee.

Not-for-profit organizations in the communities we serve can apply for grants to support their worthwhile social and civic endeavors.

For further details on Operation Round Up, visit us at www.mcdonoughpower.com. If you wish to decline participation, please give us a call. **6114B6A-168A**



Lineman's Safety Rodeo



Apprentice Lineman Brandon Cousins, participated in the annual statewide Lineman's Safety Rodeo on Friday, September 18. Cousins participated in a team event along with Austin Aschermann and Brad Smith of Adams Electric Co-op. The three-man team finished second in the switch operator event.

The 18th Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield,

coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Several electric suppliers joined the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative in sponsoring the event.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included hurt man rescue, egg climb, single phase capacitor changeout, switch operator with S & C load break tool, and an H-structure obstacle course.

CLOSING THE BLINDS HELPED ME ENJOY A MOVIE.



When the A/C is on, I keep the sun out. It's nothing huge, but it's worth the effort. It's also worth two tickets to a summer blockbuster. Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM