

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Local electric co-op employees receive two awards at state conference

Norris Electric Cooperative employees received two safety honors recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The awards were given to cooperatives with outstanding “best accident/illness” and “best lost time” safety records for 2009.

The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). The theme of the conference was “Put the Spotlight on Safety.” Attendees heard firsthand from two linemen who were involved in a fall during ice storm recovery work as well as Kristie Cunningham, the wife of a fallen lineman, and her family’s perspective on their tragedy.



Larry Short (left) accepted the award from AIEC President/CEO N. Duane Noland.



Office Closing

The Norris Office will be closed Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • www.norriselectric.com

The “King of Caulk and Talk”

Doug Rye, the “King of Caulk and Talk” was the keynote speaker at the Energy Innovation Conference held at Lake Land College in Mattoon in March. Doug Rye is a nationally recognized energy consultant helping people lower their utility bills by as much as 50 percent. Doug’s humorous, but straight to the point, fashion cuts to the core and leaves “no stone unturned” when talking about energy efficiency like no other ‘guru’ does.

Doug’s advice can be applied to any home, new or existing, anywhere in America. And probably anywhere in the world! He is a leading consultant in all aspects of energy efficiency including: home insulation practices, energy efficient heating and air, water heaters, caulking, air infiltration and attic insulation. He is responsible for the construction of more than 50,000 geothermal cooled homes.

In addition, Doug Rye is featured in newsletters and magazines across the country and is well



known for hosting his radio call-in show, “Home Remedies”. His live radio show has been broadcast for more than 17 years and is carried by satellite to 15 states. He is also featured each month in this magazine.

Doug was sponsored at this event in part by several Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in central Illinois including Norris Electric Cooperative, Shelby Electric Cooperative, Enerstar Electric Cooperative, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

and Prairie Power, Inc.

If you are looking for straightforward, time-tested advice on making your home energy efficient, then Doug’s DVD on new home OR existing home construction is a must for you. You can order the DVD from his website at www.dougyrye.com or Norris Electric has one available to loan to our members. Please call our office at 877-783-8765 to check out the video or talk to an energy advisor.

Co-op Connections Card saving members \$\$\$



Norris Electric Cooperative members saved 30.1 percent on prescriptions in February 2010 using their Co-Op Connections card. There were 290 prescriptions filled at 28 different pharmacies for a total savings of \$5,267.

Vegetation Control Schedule

We will have crews performing routine tree trimming or spraying during **March** in the following areas:



These areas have been scheduled quite a bit in advance so our plans may change. You should call us if you have any questions relating to a specific area or about our vegetation management policies and practices. You may also call us if you wish to make other arrangements for your specific property or to question our vegetation control practices. Our Forestry Department can be reached at 1-877-783-8765 or 618-783-8765 during working hours. Our Website is www.norriselectric.com.

10 family outdoor fun tips

Play it safe this spring with this electrical safety information

Outdoor family fun really takes off in the spring. But before you get out the kites and start those outdoor games, Safe Electricity and Norris Electric Cooperative recommend you review these safety rules:

1. Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
2. Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. Never fly a kite on a cloudy day when a thunderstorm may be brewing.
3. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires and electrocute you. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
4. Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
5. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. (those large green boxes sometimes located in yards)
6. Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric



substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call your electric utility instead.

7. Be sure all pools and outdoor play areas are away from power lines and call JULIE before installing any new posts.
8. Install and use GFCI outlets outside. Use portable GFCIs if outlets don't have them. Keep appliances 10 feet from pools, ponds and wet surfaces.
9. Don't leave electrical appliances outside. They could become

wet and cause an electrical shock when unplugged later. If the weather looks threatening, pack up and go inside.

10. Spring showers bring more than just puddles to splash in. They can bring flooded areas that are never safe to play or wade in and may be in contact with energized equipment or fallen power lines.

Visit www.SafeElectricity.org for more information on electrical safety, and on-line games and activities that teach kids to safely use and play around electricity.

New billing option now available

Norris Electric is going green with paperless billing!!

We now have the option for you to receive your electric bill electronically. If you are interested in having your bills e-mailed to you each month, call our office at 618-783-8765 or toll free at 877-783-8765.

Keep electricity from going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures — faucets and showerheads — or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water-heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10 F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 F, most households usually only require them set at 120 F. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temper-



ature within a range of 130 F to 140 F for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value

of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

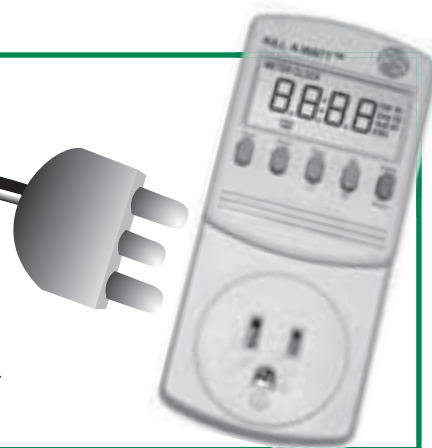
Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

We loan out Kill A Watts

An article titled "Tracking the Electricity You Use" appeared in the Illinois Country Living Magazine's March issue. This article featured a device called a Kill a Watt. Norris Electric Cooperative and local librar-

ies have these devices which can be loaned out to members who would like to monitor an appliance's electric usage. For more information call our office at 618-783-8765 or toll free 877-783-8765 and ask for our Member Services Coordinator Tim Bohnhoff.



Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m