

JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Lives on the line

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative lineworkers maintain over 2,100 miles of line in our service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep SIEC running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county

or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support.

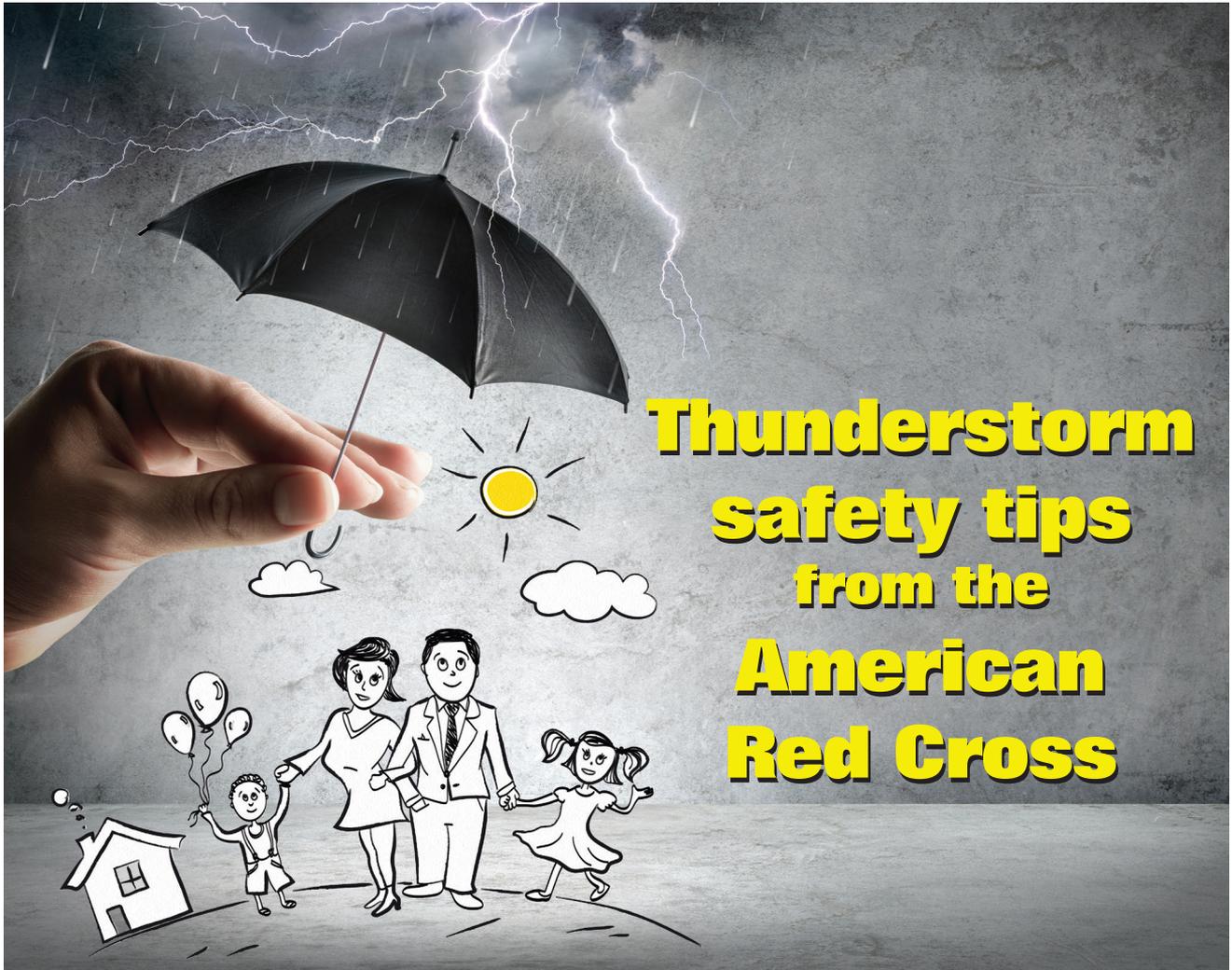


Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100
 Dongola, Illinois 62926
 618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Web address: www.siec.coop



Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555



When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather

Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

- Brandon Hoehner**
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
 - Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
 - Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
 - If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
 - If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



Are you prepared for storm season?

As I prepare this article the snow is flying outside, and in my opinion the temperature is miserable. I count the days until springtime arrives in southern Illinois. The time when the days are becoming longer, grass and trees are greener, and temperature begins to warm. Along with all of the good, we must take the not so good, spring storms. It seems in southern Illinois we switch from ice storm season to wind and tornado season in a matter of days, sometimes hours.

It makes no difference how much time your cooperative spends maintaining right of way, changing poles and wire, and adding the latest technology, mother nature can and will test our system and cause outages, sometimes lasting for days. With that being said, are you prepared? Here at SIEC we are prepared; we have an order of restoration, very capable and dedicated employees, and the willingness of sister cooperatives within the state to spring into action should the need arise. **Brenda Rushing**

What have you done to prepare for such an outage? I'm sure some of you have installed backup generation in your homes, and if you have, have you done it in such a way to protect our linemen who are working to restore your power? Please call our office if you have any questions about the

safety of your backup generation. I realize backup generation is probably an expense that is out of reach for some, if not the majority of our members, but you can still be prepared for an extended outage, and know how to keep your family safe during such an event. In all cases, stay away from downed

power lines, or any lines for that matter. Do not assume that the line is dead just because it is on the ground, draped across a tree, or other object. If your power is out, call us to report the outage, if you know any details, let us know that as well. You, the member, are the eyes and ears of our system. Do not assume that we know your power is out, we do have some of the latest technology to help us in an outage, but sometimes it's hard to replace the good ole "word of mouth" if you know something in particular to help us find the problem.

With that being said, also please be patient with our employees. It seems that after a certain period of time without electricity a person's patience can become mighty thin, but understand the person on the other end of that phone line is only relaying



John Harris
Director of Operations
& Maintenance

information that they have been given, and as an employee, they may also be one of our members who is without power as well. If we are experiencing an extended outage we sometimes work a couple of days without rest. After that time, we will send our employees home, in the name of safety, for six

or seven hours of rest before returning for another eighteen-hour shift. During the ice-storms of 2008 and 2009 the majority of our employees worked a straight 36 to 48 hours initially and then worked 18 hours a day for the next couple of weeks. We also utilized the assistance of an additional 100 lineman and forestry personnel from other cooperatives and contractors.

Springtime in southern Illinois can be beautiful, I'm not sure there is any other place I would rather call home, but be prepared for the ugly side of mother nature, and above all know how to be safe in a storm. Rest assured that Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be here in the event of a storm to restore power as safely and quickly as possible for our members.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Spring Safety Coloring Sheet



Energy
Explorers



Spring Safety Tip:
Never climb a tree
that has power lines
running through it!
Always avoid playing
near electrical utility
equipment.