



The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

McDonough Power Cooperative assists communities with PPE funding

McDonough Power Cooperative's board of directors met remotely for their regularly scheduled monthly board meeting in March to discuss cooperative business. Among the items discussed included how to assist those organizations which are being directly affected by the coronavirus outbreak. It was decided by the board of directors to donate \$2,500 to the McDonough County Health Department and another \$2,500 to the Warren County Health Department to help replenish Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which is in high demand due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

These donations were made through McDonough Power Cooperatives Cares Fund, which is a benevolent program funded through the sale of scrap wire and metal no longer needed by the cooperative and by personal donations made by those affiliated with the organization.

Both organizations stated that they are very appreciative of the donations, which will allow them to supplement what is received from the state of Illinois and help them stay prepared during the fight against COVID-19.

"Many community agencies are experiencing a need for additional PPE resources during this COVID-19 pandemic, or foresee the coming need for such," stated Stefanie Johnson of the McDonough County Health Department. "In McDonough County this includes, but is not limited to, McDonough District Hospital, Lifeguard Ambulance Services (EMS), McDonough County Sheriff,



Macomb Fire Department, Illinois State Police District 14, Macomb Police Department, WIU Office of Public Safety, as well as various county nursing homes and long-term care facilities."

Jenna Link, Administrator of the Warren County Health Department, indicated that much like McDonough County, Warren County is providing PPE supplies to many of the agencies in their area as well. She also added that they have been providing supplies to county coroners and funeral homes who have also had to adapt to changes in their protocol. **10334A2-356B**

Both county Emergency Services and Disaster Agencies have begun distributing PPE supplies. "The McDonough County Health Department is awaiting PPE distributions from state PPE supplies," reported Johnson. "We have received small donations of masks, gloves and wipes from several local businesses. As PPE supplies come in, requests will be filled as completely as those supplies on hand will allow."

McDonough Power Cooperative is appreciative of the services these organizations provide to the communities we serve and is proud to be able to help in this time of need.

MEMORIAL DAY
★ IN MEMORY OF OUR HEROES ★
**Our office will be closed
Monday, May 25.**



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Office hours:
 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

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**LINEWORKER GEAR
 WORD SEARCH**



Did you know lineworkers wear special protective gear to keep them safe while working on power lines and other electrical equipment?

Read the descriptions to learn about a lineworker's gear and find the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.

- **Safety goggles** keep debris away from lineworkers' eyes while on the job.
- **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.
- **Work boots** provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.
- **Flame-resistant** clothing keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.
- **Insulated gloves** protect lineworkers from electrical shock while working on power lines.
- **Equipment belts** hold several tools that lineworkers need to get the job done.

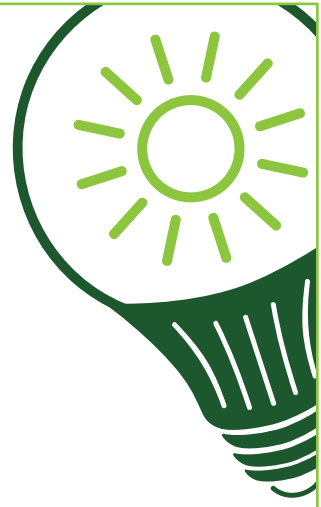


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**ENERGY EFFICIENCY
 TIP OF THE MONTH**

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Get your summer on, but use decorative lighting safely

The summer months are approaching, and that means social gatherings will soon move outdoors. Outdoor electrical string and sphere lighting, as well as illuminated jars and outdoor fixtures, can add ambiance and visual flair to open-air living spaces.

McDonough Power Cooperative and **Safe Electricity** offer these safety tips when using decorative lighting outdoors:

- Only use strands, globes or other decorative fixtures that are approved for outdoor use and have been tested by a reputable safety laboratory, such as UL.
- Only string together the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- All outdoor outlets should be protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Unplug or turn off lights when not in use. **525HH120-951B**
- Only use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use and do not overload them.
- Do not use metal tacks or nails to drape or attach string lights.
- Consider using LED lighting, which gives off less heat and uses less energy than incandescent versions.
- Planning on adding extra outlets/running electricity to a gazebo or a “she shed?” Hire a qualified electrician to install them.
- Use outdoor-rated bulbs.
- Just like indoor lighting, do not use bulbs that surpass a fixture’s maximum wattage.
- Inspect lights and cords before using them.



- Make sure everything you are plugging in – such as decorative lighting, outdoor kitchen appliances and other electrical items – won’t overload the circuit. A qualified electrician can help with this.
- Adding permanent outdoor lighting? It is best to hire this out as well.

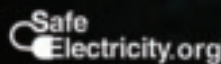
Enjoy dining al fresco and entertaining under the stars (and lights). Just select your lighting carefully and use it safely. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

WHAT SHIMMERS *And Shines*

Use **SUMMER OUTDOOR LIGHTING** Safely

- Only use lighting approved for outdoor use.
- Make sure lighting has a reputable seal of approval, such as UL.
- Use outdoor-rated bulbs.
- Use recommended bulb wattage.
- Inspect all cords and lights from damage or wear before using them.
- Only use outdoor-rated extension cords and do not overload them.
- Do not use nails or metal tacks to hang light strands.
- Make sure your outlets are GFCI-protected.

For more information:





What your teen should know about electrical safety

Parents of teens can relate. You want to share important information with your teen but he or she braces for the next lecture. **5314B2-260A** Your teen may give you the quintessential eye roll but sharing this safety information could help save his or her life. So, when the time is right, relay this information to your teenager to prevent electrical shock.

At home

- **Do not** use a cell phone near the bathtub or sink or with wet hands while it is plugged in and charging. Do not use an extension cord in the bathroom to extend your phone's reach closer to the tub. Teens have died after a charging phone dropped into bath water.
- **Do not** sleep with your charging cell phone under your pillow or in bed with you. The phone can overheat, causing bedding to catch on fire or burn skin. Also, a short in the charging cord can cause electrical shock when using your phone. This is especially a risk when using generic or incompatible charging equipment. Always replace charging equipment with brand name/matching items. They cost more, but they are less likely to malfunction.
- **Do not** charge your cell phone, tablet or other devices on soft

surfaces such as a blanket, pillow or bedding.

On the road

- If you are in an accident involving a downed power line or damaged padmount transformer (big green electric box) or other electrical equipment, call 9-1-1 and **DO NOT** get out of your car. Only get out if there is smoke or your car is on fire. If that's the case, make a clean exit from the vehicle (make a solid jump out without touching the car) and hop with feet together as far as you can. **DO NOT WALK**. If there is damaged power equipment, the ground and anything else the lines touch could have electrical current running through it.
- If you approach an accident with a downed power line, **DO NOT** attempt to help the victims and do not go near the scene. Instead, call 9-1-1 and warn others not to approach the area.

Outside

- **Do not** use plugged in devices (e.g. a charging cell phone) near water like a pool or hot tub or in damp conditions.
- If you are swimming in a lake and feel odd sensations in your

body, such as tingling or zaps, swim away from the dock or other source of electricity (e.g. lights). Sometimes electrical currents can leak into the water and can cause electric shock drowning. If you feel odd sensations in a wading pool, hot tub or swimming pool, get out.

Although you can't cover all these tips with your teen in one sitting, they are important to convey and could prevent injuries and save lives. **525HH107-951B** For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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.