

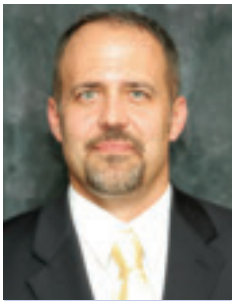
The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, which means your cooperative is part of an alliance of more than 730 cooperatives in 46 states that collectively deliver energy solutions to more than 42 million members every day. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives own and operate transmission and distributions systems consisting of more than 2.6 million miles of line that serves approximately 56 percent of the land mass in the United States.

As a member of this alliance, your cooperative firmly believes in the four core principles of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community:

Integrity: Members first. That's the power of co-op membership. It means not-for-profit electric cooperatives deliver energy to its members at the cost of service, unlike investor-owned utilities that distribute its profits to investors across the nation or even the world – not necessarily to those it serves.

Accountability: Electric co-ops belong to the members they serve. Every member has an equal voice in how the co-op is run. With members in charge, you can feel confident the decisions made are in your best interest and the best interest of your community. That's because co-op business is conducted through a locally elected board of directors who set policies of the cooperative.

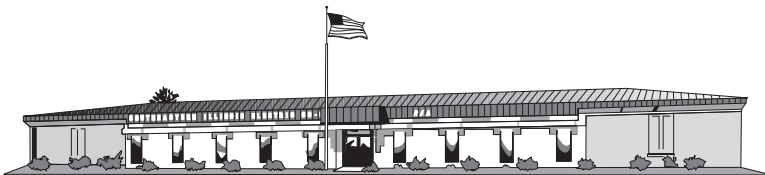
Innovation: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives offer innovative solutions and state-of-the-art technology to better serve members and meet their needs including programs promoting energy efficiency, new bill payment options and other member-benefit programs.

Commitment to Community: Touchstone Energy co-ops work to improve its members' quality of life by investing time, money and expertise to better local communities and strengthen relationships with member-owners. That includes taking a leadership role in community and economic development projects, educating students about safety and environment, as well as generously donating time, energy and resources to charities, schools and community events.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is very proud to be one of a number of businesses in our area that remain locally owned, locally governed and locally operated for the past 82 years in southern Illinois. Your cooperative remains committed to finding new and better ways to serve its members. Your cooperative will continue to work diligently to improve and enhance the level of service and reliability that you receive while keeping rates affordable.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Kay Ticer, Marion, IL



Make time for safety this harvest season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take time to look up and out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a sagging or low power line, contact us. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, if hit or damaged, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on

steering, which may lead some drivers to think they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on the surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so you can be active and engaged in the farm work.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned

horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If the machinery you are operating makes contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Attention Local Teachers!

Apply for your 2020/2021 Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials? Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources? We thought so.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local teachers and administrators. The grants will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

A panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. Grant applications are due by November 6, 2020. Grant awards will be announced on January 8, 2021. For a grant application and guidelines, please visit our website at www.seiec.com or contact Stefanie Tripp at 1-618-273-3806. It only takes a few minutes to apply.

Since 2006, SEIEC has distributed a total of \$54,600 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants throughout the cooperative's service area.



We're here for you

This is a challenging and uncertain time, but we've been through difficult times before. As we did then, we'll continue to serve you anytime, day or night, 365 days a year. You can count on that.

Brought to you by



South Eastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

★
HAPPY
LABOR
DAY



Find us on 
Facebook.com/SouthEasternIllinoisElectric

POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.
100 Cooperative Way • Carrier Mills, IL 62917-2275
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F