



## Stay safe going over the river and through the woods

The holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual – shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet, and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities. **50-13-0724**

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Co-op personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump

from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.

- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply. Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.

## LIHEAP

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of a household’s heat and electric costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income and energy costs. In most cases, the benefit is applied as a credit directly to the household’s Egyptian Electric account. Qualifications are based on income and household size if your household’s combined income is at or below the levels shown on this chart, you could be eligible.

To apply for assistance, go to [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) for the online application. The current application period for Energy Assistance began July 27, 2020, and applications will continue to be accepted through May 31, 2021, or until funding is exhausted. We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for LIHEAP assistance.

Jackson/Perry/Randolph/Monroe Counties	618/965-3458
St. Clair County	618/277-6790
Washington County	618/532-7338
Williamson/Franklin Counties	618/937-3581
Union/Johnson Counties	618/634-2201

## Illinois LIHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2020–2021 Heating Season

Family Size	30 Day Income
1	\$2,127
2	\$2,873
3	\$3,620
4	\$4,367

Add \$747 monthly income per person above 4 people.



Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1732 Finney Road  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours  
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone  
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F  
www.eeca.coop

### Board of Directors

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Paul Hicks, Vice-President  
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### Choose your payment option!

- At our office, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

## Operation Round-Up Board vacancy

With the launch of Operation Round-Up in 2020, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board of Directors are looking to fill an at-large volunteer position for the Operation Round-Up Board of Directors. If you are a community member or consumer-member of EECA and are interested in helping award money from our Community Foundation, please visit our website at [eeca.coop/community-youth-programs/operation-round-up-form/](http://eeca.coop/community-youth-programs/operation-round-up-form/) to learn more about the organization. Resumes should be submitted to the cooperative for consideration by Dec. 31, 2020.



### Sign up for Operation Round-Up today and be entered to win up to \$300!

TO RAMP UP PARTICIPATION, EECA WILL BE CONDUCTING MONTHLY DRAWINGS TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO'VE REGISTERED AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR OPERATION ROUND-UP PROGRAM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31. DRAWINGS WILL BE SELECTED RANDOMLY, ONE WINNER PER MONTH.

- Register by October 31, you will be entered in for the Nov 1 drawing for \$150 cash prize
- Register by November 30, you will be entered in for the Dec 1 drawing for \$150 cash prize
- Register by December 31, you will be entered in for the Jan 4 drawing for \$300 cash prize



Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association

VISIT [ECCA.COOP](http://ECCA.COOP),  
SMARTHUB, EMAIL OR CALL  
OUR OFFICE TO REGISTER

## Meter update

As discussed in issues prior, we are deploying a new smart meter system. To date, we have approached nearly 25 percent of our new meter system deployed. Most of the meter exchanges have occurred for substations in Jackson and Williamson counties.



## Ways to Pay

### SmartHub



Download this app on your smart device or visit [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop) to make a payment or set up recurring payments.

### Pay-by-phone



Call us during or outside business hours, 24/7, through our secure payment system at 1-844-759-3977 to make a secure payment or set up automated payments.

### Moneygram – Express Payment



Bill pay now available at your local CVS, Kroger, Schnucks or Wal-Mart for \$1.50 fee. For more locations visit [www.moneygram.com/mgo/us/en/locations](http://www.moneygram.com/mgo/us/en/locations).

(Fees associated with this payment method are third-party.)


### Office



Call us or drop your payment in the Payment Dropbox, pay at the outdoor kiosk, or mail your payment to 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Live phone and kiosk credit card transactions will no longer be accepted after January 1, 2021



Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M - F • 800/606-1505 • [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop)

## Unpacking the different types of electric cars

The electric car movement is gaining speed. Offering many benefits to both owners and the environment, driving an electric car emits 54 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions per mile than the average new gasoline car. Moreover, the cost of “fueling” an electric vehicle averages \$1.20 per gallon, much less than the average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline.

With more than 1.5 million electric cars currently operating in the U.S., electric car sales are forecasted to surpass 3.5 million per year by 2030. Not all electric cars operate the same way. Four main types of electric cars exist on the roads today. **22-35-0010**

**Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs)** are the type of electric car that has been on the market the longest. HEVs include a small battery pack that is not charged by plugging in, but rather the batteries in hybrids are charged by the internal combustion engine and/or the braking process. HEVs function as battery-assisted vehicles and are not powered solely by batteries at any given time. Many HEVs are touted to make around 50 mpg for both city and highway.

**Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs also known as EVs)** do not rely on any gasoline to power the vehicle and have zero tailpipe emissions. EV operators simply plug their vehicles into their home electric

grid or a public charging station to charge. BEVs also generate electricity from braking as a secondary energy source. Unfortunately, EVs are somewhat limited in how far they can drive on a single charge. Most EVs have all-electric ranges of 80 to 100 miles, while a few have ranges up to 250 miles. On longer road trips,

**Range Extender Hybrid EVs (REHs)** function the same as plug-in hybrids, but have higher battery ranges due to design differences. Examples include the BMW i3 and the discontinued Chevrolet Volt. Some REHs drive more than 50 miles on a single charge. In addition to battery power, they also feature



EVs rely on the availability of charging stations, which are sometimes difficult to find. Depending on the model, it may take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours to recharge a vehicle.

**Plug-in Hybrid EVs (PHEVs)** run on both battery power and gasoline and have much smaller battery packs than BEVs. The all-battery range in these vehicles is typically between five and 30 miles, and then the internal combustion engine is responsible for anything beyond that. Plug-in hybrids effectively reduce operator emissions for short trips around town; longer trips are powered by gasoline.

a traditional internal combustion engine with some models making more than 40 miles per gallon once the battery is drained.

It is worth noting that EV battery ranges can vary depending on weather conditions. For example, cars must work harder to run in colder temperatures and using the defrost or heat decreases the range. At-home charging times depend on how you charge at home (120 volts versus 240 volts). These are caveats you will want to consider when shopping for an electric vehicle.

For more information about energy efficiency and electrical safety, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Update on card payments & kiosks

Card payments will no longer be accepted by phone to EECA representatives or off site kiosks at Wright Do-it Center in Sparta and at MarketPlace Shell in Carbondale, effective Jan. 1, 2021. Until April 1, 2021, both off-site kiosks will accept cash payments only, and then will be indefinitely removed. Cash payments can be made at our office, during business hours, 24/7 outside office kiosk and at any MoneyGram location. Credit card and check/e-check payments can be made by use of our 24/7 secure pay-by-phone system at 844-759-3977, the SmartHub app, online at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop), our office kiosk, or our office lobby, when open. **49-18-0917**

The kiosk at our office location will continue to operate as normal. You can pay cash, e-check or securely by credit card! The kiosk accepts cash (but no change given), e-checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards. We also encourage you to sign up for auto pay using your card or checking account by enrolling online or call 844-759-3977.

## IEC Scholarships

Twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2021 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.



6 scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).



4 scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).



1 scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).



1 scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL (deadline to apply April 30, 2021).

Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available for completion.

For more information or to apply online, go to:

<https://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/?coop=EGT>



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and Facebook @eeca.coop



### MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.