



We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Summer is now in full swing, and we all welcome the opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy the warm weather. Summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but we want you to know that Egyptian Electric Cooperative crews always stand ready to respond should power outages occur in our area, large or small.

When major storms knock out power, our crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. Sometimes a storm pops up or changes direction without any warning, while other times it is forecast days in advance and follows its predicted course. In either case, knowing what to do right before, during and after a storm can help to keep you safe. We encourage you to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages such as up on a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, hygiene supplies, First Aid kit, household items (especially flashlights and batteries), and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.



When a storm hits

- ⚡ If outside, never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower or utility pole, since lightning tends to strike tall objects. Immediately vacate elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges and peaks. Get away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water. Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences.
- ⚡ Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- ⚡ Know the difference between a watch and a warning for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and means there is imminent danger to life and property.

After the storm

Once the storm is over, follow these safety tips from Safe Electricity:

- ⚡ Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- ⚡ After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely. **55-13-0031**
- ⚡ The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call 9-1-1 to

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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

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- By phone at (844) 759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta



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report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving). If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.

⚡ If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.

⚡ If the wiring, electrical system or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, disconnect major appliances and unplug TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use

a small generator, make sure it is rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information and check Egyptian Electric's SmartHub app and Facebook page for power restoration updates.

After storms, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where concealed electricity issues could be located. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Egyptian Electric Cooperative, we recommend you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

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.

Brownouts: What are they, and why do they happen?

The lights flicker and dim. The television suddenly reboots. Your computer screen goes dark. As soon as you start to wonder when or if you clicked save, the lights become brighter and everything seems to return to normal; except, perhaps, that document you were working on.

When these events occur simultaneously, it could mean that you have experienced a brownout, which gets its name from the way incandescent light bulbs dim and the light appears brown. But what exactly is a brownout, and how is it different from a blackout?

Where a blackout is a complete shutdown of power, a brownout means energy is reduced by 10 to 25 percent. Brownouts typically occur when outdoor temperatures are extreme, causing a significant spike in energy demand. This heightened demand can cause electricity production to be near or at capacity. The opposite action, a temporary reduction in the voltage of electricity (a brownout), can help avoid a total shutdown of the electrical system.

When energy demand is at its highest, Egyptian Electric and Safe Electricity recommend:

- Unplugging computers and high-end electronics to protect them from

potential damage caused by power sags and surges. As a rule, these types of devices cannot regulate the amount of power they receive.

- Installing point-of-use surge protectors. This type of affordable surge protector plugs directly into an outlet and works by cutting the power when excessive voltage is detected. While most appliances are typically unscathed by dips and eventual surges in voltage levels caused by a brownout, damage can happen, and these devices add a layer of protection.
- Considering a whole-home surge protector, which helps protect all your home's electrical devices. While more of an investment than the plug-in variety, it works by diverting power from appliances and electronics through a home's grounding wires. It can also help protect appliances from spikes related to lightning strikes and other electrical issues. This type of whole-home protection should be installed by a qualified electrician directly into your home's electrical panel(s).
- Unplugging unessential appliances. Taking this simple step can help reduce the amount of power your home uses. If done in multiple homes, it may help shorten the length of the brownout.
- Being prepared for an outage. Unfortunately, brownouts are not always successful in reducing the load. Keep your home stocked with emergency items in the event of an extended power outage.
- Having fully charged portable power bank, phones and mobile devices on hand. If the power goes out or a brownout lasts more than a few hours, you can use your communication devices to let us know about the issues you are experiencing.

WHAT IS A BROWNOUT?

A BLACKOUT is a complete shutdown of power.

A BROWNOUT means energy is reduced by 10 to 25 percent.

Why are my lights flickering?

Along with reduced illumination from brownouts, lights can flicker or blink for other reasons. The problem may be:

- **Light bulbs.** If just one light is flickering or blinking, check that the light bulb is not loose. A light bulb may also flicker if it is not the proper voltage for the fixture or if you plugged a standard bulb into a dimmer switch. The fix may be as easy as replacing it with the proper bulb.
- **Electrical wiring.** If the lighting in the entire room or the whole house flickers, it could be a sign of a larger issue. Hire a certified electrician to inspect your home to make sure your electrical wiring system and connections are up to date. **43-01-0007**
- **Appliances.** If the flickering seems to coincide with a major appliance drawing power, such as a refrigerator, the issue may be an overloaded circuit or the appliance itself. Have your appliance inspected to make sure it is wired for maximum ampacity and that the circuit is safe to use. (Ampacity is the maximum amount of current that a wire can safely carry.)
- **An overloaded circuit.**
- **Meter box or main service connection issues.**
- If the whole neighborhood is experiencing problems, contact us to report the issue.
- For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



The Power of Operation Round Up

By Adam Schwartz

It started as a simple idea at one co-op in South Carolina - just rounding up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in our communities. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Egyptian Electric Cooperative, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with over 12,000 members, it adds up fast to make a significant impact.

The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members

can change their minds about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their communities, they almost always keep contributing. Once we have enough funds accumulated, we will be accepting applications from organizations in our communities where those funds would be useful.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. This can include stocking the local food pantry, providing funds for the local fire department to purchase a needed piece of equipment and dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country – and the world – is their willingness to share information

about the programs that have been successful. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit. Please consider joining our efforts today! **49-13-0059**

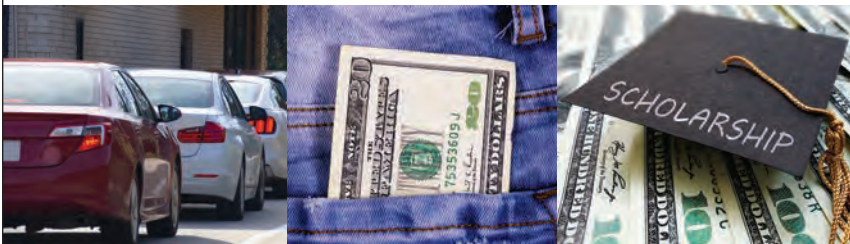


Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operation Round Up, where together we make the difference!
www.eeca.coop

Sign up to round up your bill > money goes into the Egyptian Electric Charitable Fund NFP account > 100% of the funds go back into the community!

2021 Annual Meeting Thursday, July 15



The 83rd EECA Annual Meeting of the Members will be held drive-thru style on **Thursday, July 15, 2021**. Boxed hot dog and chip dinners will be given and a \$20 bill credit to each registered member. Gates open for registration at 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. Scholarship and door prize drawings immediately following. Full-time and soon-to-be college students can now apply for one of 10 opportunities to win a \$1,000 EECA Annual Meeting scholarship! Applications are due July 6, and can be found on page 4, in office or online at eeca.coop.

New Director Mary Homan



Mary Homan of Chester was voted in as our newest board of director on April 13, 2021 to fill the vacancy of Larry Ebers

of Steeleville, at his retirement, the end of 2020. She has been employed by Chester National Bank for 38 years, and has been part of the Executive Team as Treasurer/VP for the past 20 years. She resides in Chester with her husband, Kevin, and together have one daughter, Danielle.