

JAMUP

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Preventing trees from growing into a problem

Summer has arrived, and families are preparing for a few months of fun in the sun. While summer brings bright and sunny days, it can also bring severe weather and occasional power outages to our service territory. In the event of a power outage, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) is ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our team will work hard to restore your service safely and efficiently.



Todd Thurston
Director of Operations
& Maintenance

in and let us know. You, as the member-owner, can help us keep SIEC's electric system safe and reliable.

In the late spring and summer months, we also deal with trees fully leafed prohibiting reliable power to our members. We strive, year-round, to clear Right of Ways (ROW) of trees and brush. You, the member-owner, can help us by reporting problem areas, where trees or

brush are too close or leaning toward the lines. Also, by planting trees and shrubbery in areas where it will not prohibit reliable power supply to the membership. We do our best to work with member-owners for tree trimming, removal and clearing. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and understanding in these matters.

In closing, we at SIEC, thank you in advance for all the patience, help and support that you give the co-op every day. We hope you have a Happy Father's Day, as well as a safe and blessed summer!

With summer storms, lightning is a challenge. Lightning can strike trees, poles, lines, substations, and other equipment important to delivering power to you, the member-owner. Although SIEC installs equipment to help prevent such damage, there are circumstances beyond our control that can cause outages. Sometimes lightning strikes trees causing them to fall on power lines. It can also strike poles or equipment causing them to malfunction.

As a reminder, if you see something like that happen, please report it immediately to SIEC. It helps our linemen and forestry workers in locating and fixing the problem to restore power. Also, if you see a downed line or line in a tree, please report it immediately and do not touch or get close to the wire or tree. There are times when the wire is still energized. In fact, if you ever see anything that looks dangerous or out of place, please call



We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Summertime brings many favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water, and slowing down to enjoy life. But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. **John Wisinger**

These weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before working on any downed lines. We encourage you to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

FEMA recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but visit www.ready.gov for more resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances 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 know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you 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 SIEC's website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow 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 SIEC, 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.

STORMS CAN BRING



**HIDDEN
ELECTRICAL
DANGERS**

Outside

Severe weather can sometimes cause damage to overhead power lines. That damage could be noticeable — a downed line across an open road, for instance. However, it may not be as obvious if it is camouflaged by storm damage.

In either case — whether you see a downed line or you suspect one could be hidden under debris or standing water — do not go near the area. Stay away and call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to deenergize the line. Warn others to stay away as well.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame), or on fire to be energized.

At Home

Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.

If your home's electrical system has been damaged, water-logged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by a professional electrician before using any electricity (inside or out).

Learn more at:



No game is worth getting struck by lightning

If you've been a parent, coach or player at an outdoor sporting event, you may have found yourself in this predicament. Clouds roll in and the sky gets dark, but you want to finish the game.

This is one situation when finishing the game is not worth the risk. Each year, thunderstorms produce an estimated 20 to 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the U.S., and each is a potential killer, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Some flashes strike directly under the storm where it is raining. Other times, the flashes reach away from the storm in places where people perceive the lightning threat to be low or nonexistent.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year and hundreds are injured, some suffering permanent neurological injuries. About two-thirds of deaths are associated with outdoor activities.

The NWS recommends outdoor recreation organizers have an established lightning safety plan and follow it every time inclement weather conditions are present.

As part of the plan, coaches or organizers should establish who will listen to the latest accurate weather forecasts prior to a sporting event. It should also be clear who will make the decision to postpone or cancel. **Randy Cain**

The lightning safety guidelines should also address the following, according to the NWS:

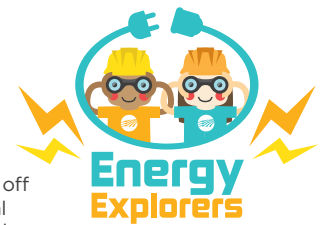
- Once in play, when should the activities be stopped? The short answer: When you see lightning, hear thunder or the sky looks threatening .
- Where should participants, officials and spectators go for safety? No place outside is safe. Enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are ideal. Small outdoor buildings, including dugouts, rain shelters, sheds and pavilions are NOT safe places.
- When should activities be resumed? A minimum of 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. .
- Who should monitor the weather and make decisions about play? A level-headed, objective person should be the designated weather and lightning monitor. This should NOT be the coach,

umpire or referee. The lightning monitor should know the weather safety guidelines and be empowered to make decisions.

- What should be done if someone is struck by lightning? Call 9-1-1 for immediate medical attention. Victims do not carry an electrical charge. CPR or AED may be needed if the individual's breathing or heart has stopped.

Don't make decisions on when to call the game or match based on personal experience or pressure from others. For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD



Water and electricity never mix! When you're cooling off in the swimming pool, remember to practice electrical safety. Complete the pool safety crossword puzzle below.

Hint: Check your answers in the key below.

1 Down:

When possible, use _____ operated devices when outside near a swimming pool.

2 Across:

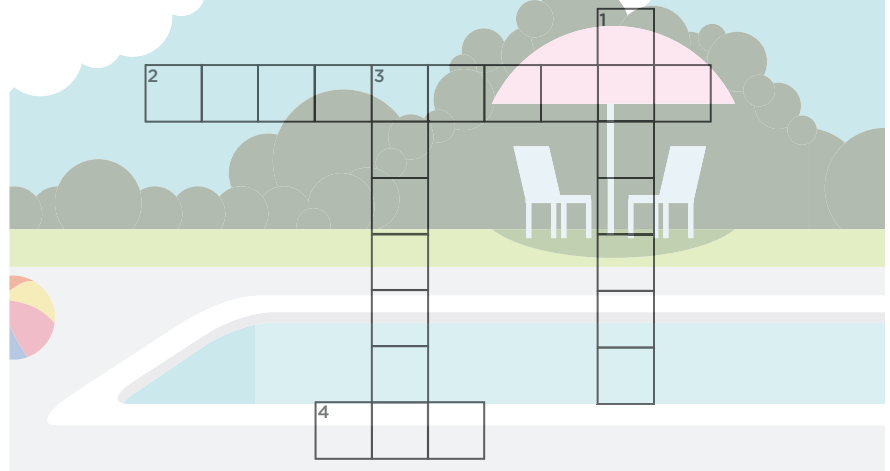
Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.

3 Down:

If you hear _____, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.

4 Across:

All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them _____.



Answer Key — 1 Down: battery 2 Across: battery 3 Down: thunder 4 Across: Dry

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.

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Before you jump in, learn more about ESD

An unfamiliar term to many, ESD means someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in water, usually from faulty wiring—a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or don't even know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating or hot tubbing.

While we are not suggesting stray electricity lurks in every body of water, it is important to be aware water can become electrified and electric shock drowning can occur.

Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat. Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- Near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water)
- Near a marina (never swim there)
- Surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity
- In a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors)
- In a wading pool, kiddie pool,



lazy river or water amusement feature that uses electricity

This is not an exhaustive list. In fact, current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it (for example, a lighted fountain).

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly or tingling sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call 9-1-1, throw a life ring or lifesaver and, if you can, shut off the power source.

For more information about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov

