

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

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 73 years in Southern Illinois. Our Cooperative embraces improving the quality of life in the communities that it serves. Your Cooperative remains committed to its communities and the following is just a few examples of how your electric cooperative is striving to make a difference right here in Southern Illinois.

Your Cooperative coordinates an education grant program known as the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant. Your Cooperative offers a total of \$4,600 in grants to fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school and the students. Every year, your cooperative sends grant applications to all of the schools in the 10 county service area and assists school administrators in applying for these grants. For the 2010-2011 school year SEIEC awarded Eldorado Elementary, Galatia High School, Marion Junior High School, Norris City-Omaha Elementary, Washington Elementary – Johnston City and West Side Primary – Harrisburg with Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants. Your Cooperative has just begun accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year.

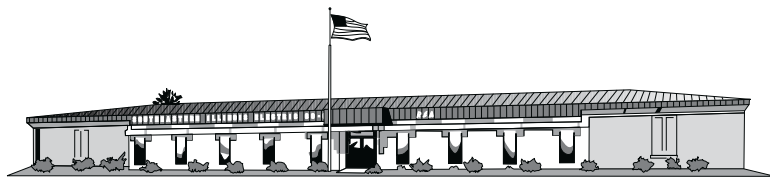
SouthEastern is also participating in a statewide scholarship fund known as the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Fund as a means of honoring

deceased members of the electric cooperative family. Every year, your cooperative sends information to all of the schools in the 10 county service area with instructions on how students can apply for these scholarships. The program will award eight scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each. Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are enrolling in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the United States. The sixth and seventh scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior who will be enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within one year from the time the scholarship is awarded. Scholarships are awarded based upon grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay. The eighth annual scholarship is known as the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship." This scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the lineworker's scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

SouthEastern also invites all twenty three area high schools to participate in a

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
Anna Sims, Creal Springs, IL



# Become an Air Evac Lifeteam Member through SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative has partnered with Air Evac Lifeteam to allow our residential customers the opportunity to join the Air Evac Lifeteam Membership program through an affordable billing plan. You have the option to choose the convenience of paying a monthly fee or an annual fee. Each plan is offered at a discounted rate through your Cooperative. Your options are as follows:

**Option 1:** The monthly fee is \$5 per month per household with a discount of \$0.50 per month per household from SEIEC. Should you choose the monthly plan your electric bill will reflect an additional \$4.50 per month per household.

**Option 2:** The annual fees include a \$10 discount through the Cooperative program; however unlike the monthly option these fees will vary with the number of individuals living in your household and will not be reflected on your electric bill. The annual fees are as follows:

- \$40 – For a 1 member household
- \$45 – For a 2 member household
- \$50 – For a 3 or more member household

Your Cooperative wanted to make both options available for you, as cooperative members, to make

the selection that best suits your needs. In order to receive these discounted options you must contact the Cooperative to obtain the appropriate membership form.

When you are faced with a medical emergency, your best hope for a good outcome rests in the ability to act quickly. Your Cooperative realizes that it is often difficult to receive prompt medical attention due to the remoteness of southeastern Illinois. Air Evac Lifeteam provides fast, safe and courteous emergency medical service. Their professionally trained crews of nurses, medics, and pilots operate medically equipped helicopters that rapidly transport patients who have suffered a critical illness or injury.

They now have over 80 bases serving 13 states, and our Cooperative area is being served by 5 of those bases. This much needed network of emergency medical personnel work with 911, local emergency medical crews and local hospitals. Air Evac crews have flown over 100,000 patients since 1985.

The Air Evac Lifeteam Membership offers significant benefits



which will save you money. Air Evac will work with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your benefit provider pays will be considered payment in full, no matter how many times a year you use the service for limb or life threatening emergencies, even if you have no insurance. Furthermore, your membership is valid in ALL Air Evac Lifeteam service areas. This is an important feature for people who travel in the Midwest.

Since a typical flight may cost \$14,000, the savings can be significant. You have the right to receive the emergency medical care you need; SEIEC along with Air Evac Lifeteam want to ensure that you attain it. For more information contact SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 1-800-833-2611 or visit our Eldorado Headquarters located at 585 Highway 142 South, Eldorado, Ill.

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program known as the "Youth To Washington Tour." Students are invited to participate by writing a one page essay on the subject, "Why I would like to visit Washington D.C." Participating schools select the best essay written by their students and forward that essay to SouthEastern for evaluation by staff personnel. The composers of the two best essays are awarded

the opportunity to participate in a one day tour of the State's capital in Springfield, Illinois and then on to a one week, expense paid tour of our Nations capital in Washington D.C. SEIEC is proud to announce that Jaymi Galloway of Thompsonville High School and Lauryn Patton of Hardin County High School were awarded and have attended the "Youth To Washington

Tour" in 2011.

These are just a few examples of how your electric cooperative is striving to make a difference in the communities it serves.

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

# Electrocution hazards on the farm

**R**ain clouds are moving in quickly and you want to finish harvesting that last field. Another wagon is ready to dump, and more will be arriving soon. You need to move the portable auger to the next storage bin. To stay on schedule, you decide to move the auger without first lowering the height. Without warning, the auger contacts overhead power lines and two workers are electrocuted. It was too late to do anything.

This scenario is repeated on dozens of farms throughout the United States each year. Electrocution is quick and deadly, killing an estimated 62 agricultural workers every year.

The tragic aspect is that these deaths could have been prevented. Farm workers can reduce their risks of electrocution by knowing how they, or others on the farm, can unknowingly come in contact with electricity. This publication focuses on electrical hazards posed by overhead power lines, standby generators, and general operating procedures of electrical systems at the farm work site.

## Electrocution hazards

The most common risk of electrocution comes from overhead power lines. Utility lines typically are not insulated, meaning that the lines are bare. The lines may have been installed without insulation, or the insulation may have been removed by exposure to the elements.

Always treat overhead power lines as if they were bare. Unlike birds that rest on wires unharmed, humans often die when they touch overhead lines because they contact the earth and wire at the same time. This creates a channel for electricity and electrocution can occur.

## Overhead power lines

Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines. Tractors with front-end

loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, and equipment with antennas easily can become an electrical hazard and must be operated with care.

Performance of certain farm tasks also pose electrocution hazards. Always use ladders with caution so that they do not come in contact with overhead power lines. Harvest of tree crops or construction also pose hazards.

## Grain bin regulations

Many electrocutions occur near grain bins, and requirements in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) address those dangers. The Code requires raised power lines in dangerous locations where tall equipment is used.

According to the NESC, power lines must be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. The clearance must be maintained a specified distance around the bin, and sloped to meet the lower line clearance. If you are installing new grain bins, contact a licensed electrician or power company representative to help place electrical service

lines. Lines also can be buried to reduce risk of electrocution. Installation costs for overhead and underground power lines can vary; contact local reps.

## Determine equipment clearance

If you have overhead power lines, ask local utility company officials to help determine line height in each area of the farm. Never measure line heights yourself! Once you know the height of all power lines, you can determine the clearance needed for equipment that must travel underneath the line. Try to maintain at least a 10-ft. clearance between the power line and the top of all equipment that must travel under it.

Consider the possibility that some equipment during transport is actually taller than when in use. For example, a large, 16-row planter that folds up would be taller during transport than during field use.

## Train seasonal employees

Busy planting and harvest seasons may require temporary employees, persons who may not be aware of potential dangers associated with

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► *Electrocution hazards continued from page 16c*

overhead power lines. Always remind additional workers about overhead power lines. Give them special instructions such as, “Never transport this cultivator through this gate because of the overhead line.”

### Standby generators

Some farms are equipped with a standby generator to provide emergency power for essential farm operations during local power failures. A key component of your operation’s emergency power system is the transfer switch, which removes the farm’s electrical system from the power company’s utility lines.

The switch prevents electricity generated by a farm operation’s emergency power system from entering the power company’s utility lines, and protects from electrocution those power company workers who service lines during an outage. The switch also protects your generator when power is restored.

Always use the transfer switch whenever your standby generator is in operation. Make sure all workers know the location of the transfer switch.

### Avoid injury

Despite operating precautions, equipment can come in contact with electrical lines. It is important to know how to handle these situations.

If your tractor comes in contact with overhead power lines, stay on the tractor. Ask someone to contact the local utility company immediately to remove the danger. If there’s an emergency, such as an electrical fire, and you need to leave the equipment, jump as far away from the equipment as possible. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment. The best way to handle emergencies is by prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines.

## 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.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930  
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F