

National Farm Safety Week September 16th – 22nd

Safe Electricity recommends the following tips to help you stay safe on the farm:

- Keep yourself and equipment 10 feet away from overhead power lines in all directions, at all times.
- Conduct a survey before you begin work. Know where overhead power lines are and have a plan to stay far from them.
- Use a spotter. When raising any equipment such as augers, grain trucks and even ladders, it can be difficult to tell how close you are to overhead power lines. An extra pair of eyes from a spotter can help you stay far away from power lines.
- Know what to do if you come in contact with an overhead power line. Do not leave the vehicle until utility workers have cut off electricity and confirmed that it is safe to exit the vehicle.



- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level—under 14 feet—before moving or transporting them. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can make it difficult to control raised equipment.
- Never try to move a power line

to clear a path. Power lines start to sag over time, bringing them closer to farmers and others who need to avoid them. Contact your utility to repair sagging power lines.

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



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Using compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in outdoor lights can save money and energy because these lights stay on the longest. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. To save even more, look for fixtures designed for outdoor use that have automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla

After the extreme heat and drought of summer, we can hope for a long autumn season with moderate temperatures to give our air conditioners a break. We can also utilize the pleasant, autumn days to get our homes ready for the winter weather that will soon be knocking on our doors and windows.

In fact, let's start with the doors and windows. How does the weather-stripping around your doors and windows look? Do the doors have weather-stripping that looks like it got into a fight with the weed-eater or fell victim to a bored dog? Did the summer sun bake and crack the caulk around your windows? When the wind is howling at 40 miles per hour and the temperature is a balmy 10 degrees outside this winter, you will feel the air rushing in those little openings in a big way.

Change the filter on your heating and air conditioning system. You may have a few months' worth of dust hanging out in there.

Once the attic has had time to cool down from the summer's heat, crawl up there and inspect the insulation. Energy Star recommends that you look across the span of your attic. If your insulation is just level with or below your floor joists (i.e., you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough and adding more may not be cost-effective. **It is important that the insulation be evenly distributed with no low spots; sometimes there is enough insulation in the middle of the attic and very little along the eaves.**

Clean out and unplug that energy hog in your garage – the refrigerator used for summer beverages and produce. A refrigerator from the 80's is probably costing over \$200 a year to operate. Plus, many refrigerators do not operate properly when the temperature surrounding them drops below 55 degrees F.

Check the foundation of your home for cracks and holes around entrances such as wires and pipes. Don't just make note of them; seal them up.

Now, turn off the lights and electronic entertainment and head outside to enjoy the first day of autumn (September 22nd) and the Full Harvest Moon (September 29th).

Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative

SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone: 217-774-3986
Fax: 217-774-3330
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Cooperative and subsidiary offices will be closed September 3rd for Labor Day.

Mark your calendar

Touchstone Energy® Balloon Fest on Lake Shelbyville October 5th - 7th

Shelby Electric Cooperative and several other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have teamed up to bring in the Touchstone Energy Hot Air balloon team to Lake Shelbyville. Come see hot air balloon pilots from Chicago, Iowa, Missouri and Central Illinois fly Lake Shelbyville with flights Friday night, Saturday & Sunday mornings and enjoy a nightglow Saturday evening (weather permitting). The Saturday nightglow will be held on the Spillway Dam off Route 16 in Shelbyville.

The Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest is being held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze providing plenty to see and do Columbus Day weekend. Call 217-774-3986 for more information or go online at www.lakeshelbyville.com. Follow the Touchstone Energy Balloon Team via their Face Book page www.facebook.com/CoopBalloon.

Pilot's Discretion – Ballooning is a very weather dependent sport and if winds are high or storms are in the area, pilots could determine they do not feel it is safe to fly. They may determine they will fly but can not take passengers for safety reasons. Even if the sun is shining and it appears to be a great day, winds could play a factor on any ballooning activity (this is primarily a concern for safe landings).



Balloon schedule of events

- **Friday night, Oct. 5th at 5 p.m.,** Media Flight – balloons will launch from the soccer fields at Forest Park in Shelbyville. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park.)*
 - **Saturday morning, Oct. 6th at sunrise,** Sponsor/Task flight – balloons leave the park to fly over the soccer fields attempting to hit a target on the field. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park.)*
 - **Saturday night, Balloon Glow (at dusk)** and Cookout starting at 4 p.m., at the Spillway Dam off Route 16. The cookout will benefit the Shelby County Rescue Squad and is sponsored by Shelbyville Moose Lodge 1294 and the Shelby Sports Club. Lake Area Volunteers will be selling soda, water and chips to raise money for their activities. Fleenor's Wieners will be selling hot dogs and Walkers will be selling kettle corn and lemonade shake-ups. Thunder Hits DJ service will be providing great music from late afternoon until the end of the glow.
 - **Sunday morning, Oct. 7th at sunrise,** Sponsor/Task flight – balloons leave the park to fly over the 9th Street Beach attempting to hit a target on the beach. *(Best place to view balloons, 9th Street Beach.)*
- Note: All scheduled balloon events and times are weather dependent and are at the pilot's discretion (see box at left). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would appreciate everyone following the **No Parking** signs that will be posted in designated areas.*

Other dates to note on calendar:

Spooktacular V at Shelby Electric Cooperative HQ..... October 19th & 20th

Employees are gearing up for their scariest and best safe trick or treat weekend. There will be something for those who like a little fright and there will also be something for those faint-of-heart and for the younger children. This is a free community event put on by the cooperative employees, their families and friends.



Home Energy Efficiency Workshop coming to ShelbyvilleNovember 8th



Brian Kumer of Thermal Imaging Services of Central Illinois will be holding a free Home Energy Efficiency workshop on Thursday, November 8th at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center located at the Dam East Recreation Area. Look for more information in the October issue of Shelby News.

Branching Out

While trees and branches remain the primary cause of outages, other offenders abound—vehicles running into poles or animals getting too close to pole-mount transformers or equipment in substations. Electrical components can also be damaged by lightning and even drifting balloons.

Cooperatives, with a focus on keeping electricity reliable, have a number of programs geared towards reducing power interruptions. A 2009 study by the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Virginia based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, found 89 percent of cooperatives across the nation operate aggressive tree trimming programs. Lightning arrestors are used by 83 percent of co-ops and another 82 percent have field personnel patrol distribution facilities to look for potential trouble spots. Animal guards, mainly used to protect against squirrels, are installed by 81 percent of co-ops.

Causes of Co-op Power

Interruptions: Power outages may be caused by car accidents damaging poles or other unknown factors. Bad weather remains the primary cause.

Here are the five main causes of power outages.

Per number of interruptions

Weather	19%
Equipment	16%
Vegetation	15%
Lightning	13%
Animals	10%

Source: NRECA Market Research Services, 2009

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BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

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- fee based on basic installation
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