

Egyptian Electric Cooperative educates new drivers on handling accidents with utility poles



Egyptian Electric Cooperative is dedicated to promoting safety on the road for all drivers, especially young and inexperienced ones. Recently, EECA staff had the opportunity to speak with Driver's Ed students from Murphysboro High School and Elverado High School to discuss the importance of road safety and how to handle emergencies involving utility poles and high-voltage power lines. The sessions covered crucial information on what to do if a vehicle collides with a power line, including the safest practices to protect all individuals present, including well-meaning bystanders and first responders.

Did you know that if your car hits a power pole, it's usually safest to remain inside the vehicle? The first instinct for many may be to exit the

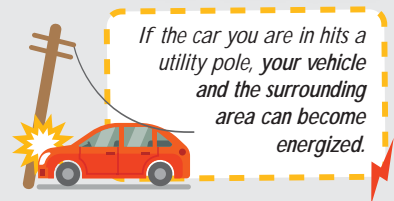
vehicle immediately, but doing so puts you in a life-threatening situation. The only exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. According to Safe Electricity, when a car crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to the ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted. **Sparks are dangerous!**

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal. That's

Continued on 18B ▶

KNOW WHAT TO DO

if in an Auto Accident with Power Lines



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.




1. Do NOT leave the car, and warn others to stay away.


2. Call 911 to have the utility notified. 

3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason to exit the vehicle is **if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: **with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground** at the same time. 

Continue to **hop away** with your feet together as far as you can. 

Learn more at





Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Business hours/After hours
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"Handling accidents with utility poles" continued from 18A



why it's usually best to stay in the car. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away, including first responders. Call 911 for help and **wait until a professional from the responding electric utility tells you it is safe to get out.**

In the case that your car has caught fire, and you must get out, jump clear of the vehicle without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Then, hop away with both feet together to ensure no voltage differential between your two feet, which would give electricity a path to flow through your body and likely lead to death.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you could put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is call 911, stay far away, and warn others to stay away from the accident.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative encourages parents and guardians to have conversations with their young drivers about the importance of road safety and how to react in emergency situations involving utility poles and equipment. By being informed and prepared, drivers can better protect themselves and others on the road.

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, 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.

Considering Solar? It's complicated, but we are here to help!

Solar energy is a popular topic today, but it's far from straightforward. As your electric cooperative, we've compiled the top five factors you should carefully consider before committing to install solar panels:

- 1. Expertise and energy efficiency matters:** Contact EECA first for assistance and unbiased advice. It is essential to prioritize basic energy-efficient tactics, such as upgrading to LED bulbs and air sealing, as first steps to going solar. These small investments will lessen your base load, yielding significant savings in your solar build out and in month-to-month energy consumption. Be sure to also take advantage of our free energy assessment to evaluate your home's efficiency! We can also evaluate your energy usage history and recommend a suitable system size to prevent oversizing and save you money.
- 2. Financial considerations:** While solar technology has advanced and costs have decreased, there are still substantial upfront expenses. It's important to understand the projected savings solar can offer you compared to total costs. Payback periods can vary from less than 10 years to over 20 years. Financing options and incentives like Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and tax incentives may help offset costs but high interest rates can have a significant impact on the payback of the investment.

- 3. Types of solar setups:** Understand the different solar setups: roof-mounted or ground-mounted and interconnected, off-grid, or battery-backed-up systems. Are your roof conditions, pitch and shingles suitable for a rooftop solar installation? For ground-mounted applications, do you have sufficient non-shaded space to install solar for maximum production?

Vicki L. Harger

- 4. Choosing a contractor:** Research reputable local contractors and obtain multiple bids. Before deciding, verify their experience and review references and contract details, including maintenance plans and expectations. Be cautious of out-of-town companies charging higher costs, making unrealistic promises or claiming to be associated with us.
- 5. Interconnection process:** Learn about the interconnection process with Egyptian Electric Cooperative, including system size limitations, billing expectations and net metering.

Explore FAQs about solar panels' functionality, lifespan, energy generation and more on our interconnections page at the QR code below!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.



Source: energy.gov



Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING

THUR, JULY 11
AT 6:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 PM

 Egyptian Electric
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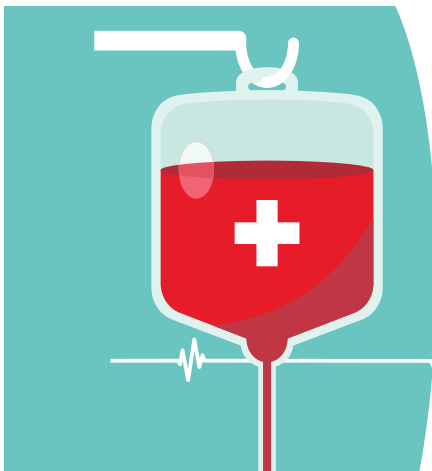
RATE EXPECTATIONS 2024

EECA will maintain its current rate structure for the year.

However, please note that adjustments may be made as necessary through Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and Demand Cost Adjustment (DCA) to accommodate any changes in operational costs or market conditions.

We are dedicated to providing reliable, safe, and affordable energy while prioritizing the interests of our valued members. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in EECA.

 Egyptian Electric
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Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 18, 2024

EECA headquarters

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Register at [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)