

# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

## Across The President's Desk

After more than four decades of unwavering service, Monroe County Electric Cooperative bids a fond farewell to lineman Bob Gross, who is retiring after a remarkable career that began on June 6, 1983.

From his first day on the job, Bob has been a steady and reliable presence at MCEC. Through countless storms, natural disasters and challenging weather conditions — including hurricanes and ice storms — Bob was there, climbing poles and restoring power, often in the harshest of conditions. His work ethic and calmness under pressure earned him deep respect among his peers and within the communities we serve.

What sets Bob apart is not just his technical skill, but his role as a mentor and teacher. Over the years, he has passed down a wealth of knowledge to many of MCEC's current

## Bob Gross retires after 40+ years of dedicated service to MCEC

linemen and foremen, helping to shape the next generation of MCEC linemen. His patience, experience and dedication to safety and service have left an enduring legacy at the co-op.

"Bob has been the backbone of our line crew for years," said one coworker. "He's seen it all and never hesitated to lend a hand or share what he's learned."

Bob's retirement marks the end of an era at MCEC. While we'll miss seeing him in the field, we are grateful for the time, dedication and heart he gave to our cooperative and our members.

Please join us in congratulating Bob Gross on an incredible career and wishing him all the best in his well-earned retirement. Thank you, Bob, for 40+ years of service, leadership and commitment.





**Our office will be closed July 4.**

## Safety Tip

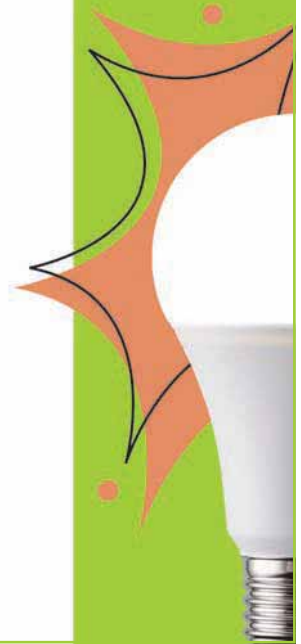
When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay far away, warn others to stay away, call 9-1-1 and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

*Source: energy.gov*



## MCEC line outages May 2025

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
05/01/25	0:51	5	Glauber Rd/Bailey Ln	Trees, Other	E Carondelet
05/14/25	1:15	2	Bluff Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Fults
05/15/25	0:10	507	Rt 3	Construction	Poe
05/16/25	0:49	70	Brellinger	Other, Faulty Equipment	E Carondelet
05/16/25	0:28	37	Levee Rd/DD Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Columbia
05/20/25	0:40	5	Glauber Rd/Bailey Ln	Small Animals Or Birds	E Carondelet
05/23/25	0:46	3	Concordia Church Rd	Unknown	E Carondelet
05/28/25	1:00	5	Shilliday Ln	Other, Faulty Equipment	Poe



[www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org)

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**Office hours:** Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

# 6 Tips for Year-Round **ENERGY SAVINGS**

1

**Use your ceiling fan** counterclockwise in the summer for a down breeze, and clockwise in the winter for an updraft to force warm air down into your room.

2

**Turn off lights** and unplug chargers and electronics when not in use.

3

**Regularly change or clean your furnace and indoor AC filters** as recommended, and keep the area around your outdoor AC unit clear of obstructions.

4

**Close or lower window coverings** to keep out heat or cold.

5

**Insulate your home** and weatherproof windows and doors.

6

**Use a programmable or smart thermostat.** Adjust the temperature a few degrees for overall savings.

Get more tips on creating a resilient and efficient home:

 **Safe  
Electricity.org®**



# Who owns what?

## Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

MCEC is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

MCEC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and padmounted transformers.

MCEC members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. Members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before MCEC crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular

trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. MCEC regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call MCEC so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these

cases, please call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact our office at 618-939-7171.

