

NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

MAY 2019

POINT OF VIEW

Ready to respond

HURRICANE SEASON

Prepare in advance

LEADERSHIP CAMP

Deadline approaching

May is National Electrical Safety Month

The safety of our members and employees is a top priority year round. During the month of May, Central Electric is joining other electric cooperatives across the state and nation in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month to promote awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious consequences of using electricity unsafely, and then we must take steps to prevent its misuse.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided through a few simple precautions.

Here are several basic tips to keep in mind when using electricity:



- ▶ **Unplug it.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off AND **unplug** all portable electric devices when you've finished using them.
- ▶ **Toss it.** Inspect electrical cords often for fraying or broken connectors. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- ▶ **Cover it.** Use plug covers in outlets if you have young children. Teach them never to put their fingers in electrical outlets or appliances, and keep cords and electrical devices away from them.
- ▶ **Avoid it.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines.

The cooperative is dedicated to educating our community about electrical safety. During the month of May, swing by the co-op office and pick up a **FREE** pack of receptacle covers to celebrate National Electrical Safety Month.



- ▶ Applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due May 1. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.
- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day. Crews will be on-call.

POINT OF VIEW

Ready to respond to storms

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

” When thunderstorms inevitably illuminate our warm, summer nights, we are here for you. Our dedicated crews are ready and prepared to respond to whatever Mother Nature may send our way. ”

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that your cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages is from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round through our right-of-way clearing program to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

However, during storms damage can occur to transmission equipment, substations and power lines, despite our best efforts. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. The biggest outages affecting the largest number of members are handled first, like damage to transmission lines, which serve

thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Our line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged equipment, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business.

The beauty of our advanced metering infrastructure is that we are aware of power outages prior to reports from members. This allows us to respond much quicker than in the past.

However, it is always a good idea to make sure you report an outage by either calling our 24-hour reporting line,



877-766-6769, or texting “OUT” to 800-446-7752. That way, you can ensure we are fully aware of your outage. [Please note, before you use the outage texting service you must first opt-in to the service by texting “PWR.” Once you are opted-in and your outage has been reported, you can text “STATUS” to receive restoration updates specific to your outage.]

When thunderstorms inevitably illuminate our warm, summer nights, we are here for you. Our dedicated crews are ready and prepared to respond to whatever Mother Nature may send our way.

We will continue to do our best to avoid power disruptions, but as you know, the weather sometimes presents challenges beyond our control. In the event of a power outage, be sure to visit the “Outage Center” at CEMCPower.com to track outages in our area and to receive the latest outage restoration updates.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Start planning now for hurricane season

In addition to Electrical Safety Month, May 5-11 is also Hurricane Preparedness Week. Central Electric encourages members to be proactive and prepare now. Use the following tips to help you know what to do before, during and after a storm to keep you and your loved ones safe during a major storm.

Before a hurricane:

- ▶ Outline a communication and evacuation plan for your family before a hurricane warning is issued to minimize confusion and fear. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- ▶ Create a power outage supply kit that includes food, water, medication, batteries and any other supplies you may need.
- ▶ Charge your phone ahead of time.

During a hurricane:

- ▶ Stay indoors and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- ▶ If flooding is imminent, turn off electricity at the main breaker.

- ▶ Do not go outside until officials have issued an all clear, even if the winds have subsided. You may be in the eye of the hurricane and about to face another round of high winds and heavy rain.

After a hurricane:

- ▶ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines. Report them immediately to Central Electric.
- ▶ If power was out for an extended period of time, throw out any food that may have spoiled in the refrigerator.
- ▶ Take pictures of any damage that has occurred to your home for insurance purposes.
- ▶ If running a generator, place it in a dry, well-ventilated area away from air intakes into the home. The generator should be properly grounded and connected to appliances with proper power cords.
- ▶ Report outages by calling 877-766-6769 or texting "OUT" to 800-446-7752. Outages can also be tracked at CEMCPower.com.

YOUR POWER OUTAGE SUPPLY KIT

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by preparing your outage supply kit ahead of time.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!



■ Tools

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ Food and water

Enough non-perishable food and water, one gallon per person per day, to last at least three days.

■ First aid kit and prescriptions

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.



Cooperative Leadership Camp

This summer, Central Electric is sending a rising sophomore, junior or senior to Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council.

The week-long, overnight camp will be held at White Lake, N.C., June 17-21. It will feature energetic and interactive workshops, presentations, outdoor recreation and leadership building exercises.

The camp is designed to provide a learning experience that concentrates on the cooperative way of doing business, building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model. Each year, five campers are selected to receive leadership awards for their unique leadership abilities and receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Institute on Co-op Education at Virginia Tech University. All campers will also be eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership scholarship their senior year of high school.

The deadline to apply is quickly approaching. All applications must be received by May 15. For more information or to apply, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" section at CEMCPower.com.

Students: Apply for
Cooperative Leadership Camp
at CEMCPower.com



Loans and rebates available

Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home this summer? Central Electric can help.

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.

Visit the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com to learn more about available energy-efficient loans and rebates, as well as energy-saving tools and services that can help you become more efficient.



Central Electric
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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James Taylor, *Editor*

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