

ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

AUGUST 2024
VOL.17, NO. 8

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EFFICIENCY**
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AUGUST CALENDAR



August is Back to School Safety Month

Aug 6th: Farmworker Appreciation Day

Aug 11th: National Safe Digging Day


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Aug 27-29th: Farm Progress Show
in Boone, Iowa

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day,
Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day,
Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.



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18300 SHIPMAN ROAD (PO BOX 80)
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

WWW.MJMEC.COOP



SAVE A LIFE: AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE DRIVING



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At MJM, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

If you find yourself involved in an accident with power poles, it is likely the pole and power lines will sag or may fall on your car or nearby, which would energize the area around your car with electricity. If you step out of the car, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, which could be deadly.

The safest plan is nearly always to stay inside the car, call 911 for help, and wait until a professional lineworker tells you it is safe to exit your vehicle. 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 they are live but are just as lethal.

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.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.



Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can’t wait.

ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
www.mjmec.coop

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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call **217-707-6156** or use your **SmartHub app**.

- When you report an outage, give your **name** and **location number**.
- Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

Please do not report outages on Facebook/Social Media.

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Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to sign up for updates.

MEMBER TRADING POST

WANTED TO BUY: Old bottles and fruit jars from Madison, Montgomery, and Macoupin Counties. Contact Brad @ 618-402-4420

FOR SALE: Extension ladders, 1-10ft, 1-12ft; bedroom and dining room furniture; assorted tables and chairs; wide array of tools. Bargain prices, call Rita @ 424-333-8270

FOR SALE: Two-story, old red barn for sale. \$3,800. Buyer must dismantle and haul off. 50ft wide x 62ft long, 30 logs for framework. Usable tin roof, corn crib, and viable lumber. Call 618-376-4006

FOR SALE: Deer Stands - one hang on deer stand, \$35. Three 15ft ladder stands, \$50/ea. One 14ft ladder stand, \$45. Call 618-535-5464

FOR SALE: Yamaha off road motorcycle. 600cc. \$1,200. Call 217-456-9105

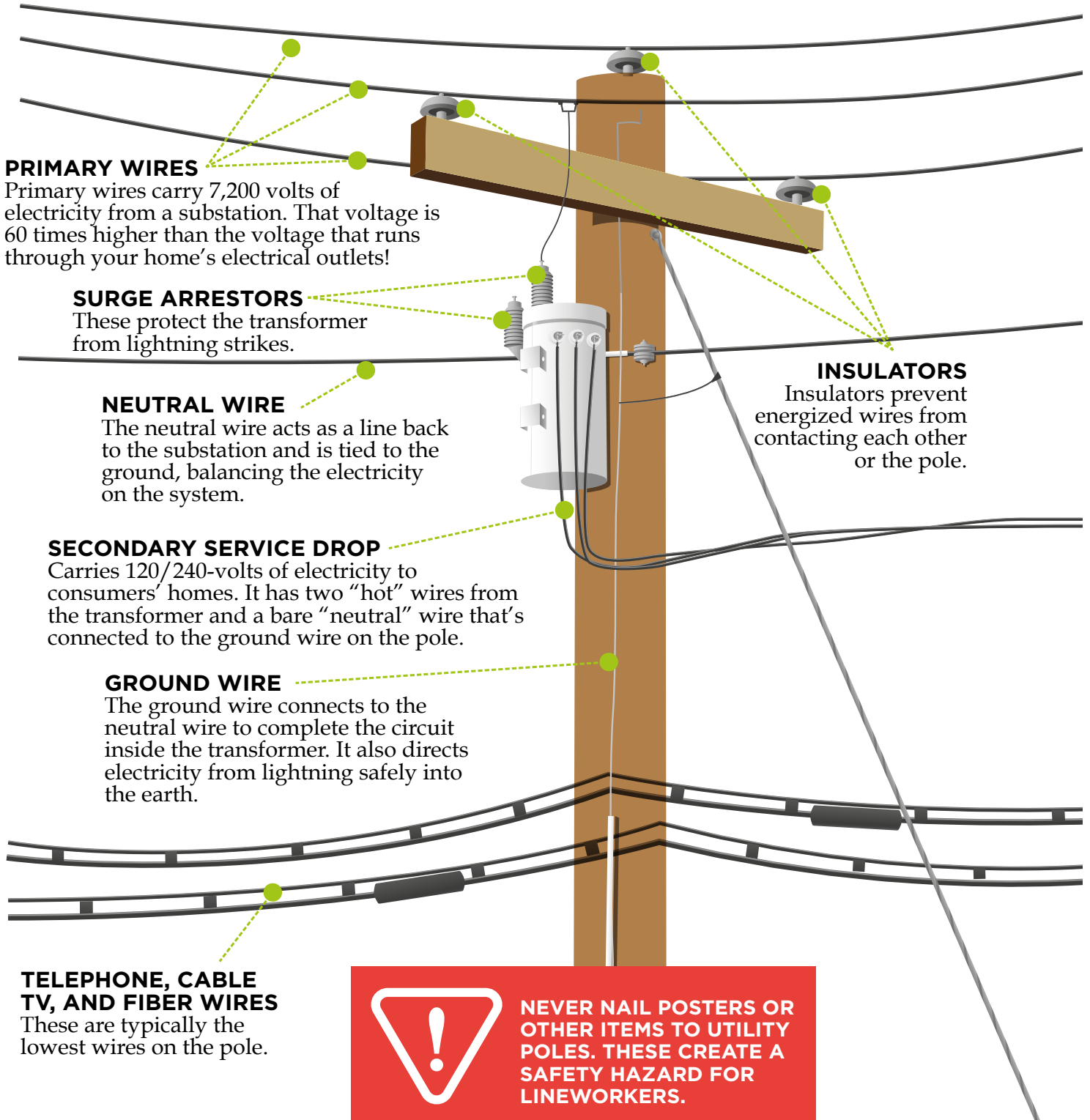
To list your free ad, email info@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to **MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlville, IL 62626.**

Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply.

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?



This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley

WAYS TO SAVE MONEY THROUGH HOME APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY

by *SafeElectricity.org*

With home appliances accounting for 13 to 15 percent of the average home's utility bill, appliance savings can have a significant effect on overall energy costs.

Safe Electricity has tips to help you use your appliances efficiently:

New Appliances

If you are in the market for a new appliance, look for the blue Energy Star label. The label guarantees that the appliance uses at least 20 percent less energy than appliances that are not Energy Star approved. The initial cost of an Energy Star product is often more expensive, but in the long run you will realize savings through decreased energy bills. Energy Star products are tested not only for efficiency, but also for performance and features.

Washers and Dryers

- The biggest trick to washing clothes efficiently is to use less water and use colder water.
- Wash full loads when possible. Washing machines use about the same amount of energy regardless of load size. If you are doing a smaller load, adjust the size on the machine to use the appropriate amount of water.
- Do not waste energy by over drying laundry. If you have a moisture-sensing option, use it.
- Use high-speed spin cycles to help remove excess water and reduce drying time.
- Use a drying rack or line dry clothes when possible.
- Clean the lint trap and the dryer vent to promote circulation and prevent fire hazards.

Refrigerators and Freezers

- A refrigerator's temperature should be 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. If your fridge has an attached freezer, it should be set to 5 F. A separate freezer should be kept at 0 F.
- Cover and wrap foods. Uncovered food releases moisture, which makes your fridge work harder.



- Regularly defrost your freezer. If you have more than a quarter of an inch of ice, it is time to defrost.

Dishwashers

- Air dry dishes instead of using the drying cycle.
- Use the shortest cleaning cycle possible.
- If you have a newer dishwasher model that does not require pre-rinsing, take advantage of it.

Oven

- Use a microwave when possible. Microwaves cook more quickly and use less energy than stove tops or ovens. Using a smaller toaster/ convection oven is also a more efficient option. A smaller space to heat results in more energy saved.
- Do not frequently open the oven when it is in use. It causes warm air to escape and the temperature to decrease. Your oven has to use more energy to raise the temperature back up.

Be sure to check www.energystar.gov for current Federal tax incentive rebates for appliances. Under the "Find Products" tab, click on "Rebate Finder" and enter your zip code to see the rebates offered in your area.



YOUTH TOUR 2024



2024 MJM Youth Tour
representative: Samantha Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, hundreds of high school students from across the United States embark on an educational and inspirational journey to the nation's capital city. Sponsored by Illinois' electric and telephone cooperatives, 54 students departed Springfield, IL, by bus on June 14 to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong trip of a lifetime. M.J.M. Electric Cooperative sponsored **Samantha Carter** from its service territory.

Youth Tour began in 1964, after President Lyndon B. Johnson inspired the nation's electric cooperatives to sponsor youths to go to D.C. to educate young people about the role of electric co-ops and the significance of the legislative process. It became an annual tradition.

"Youth Tour is more than just a trip," said Brooke Gross, Youth Tour coordinator from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that empowers future leaders to become informed, engaged and active citizens. Many Youth Tour alumni go on to become leaders in their communities, inspired by this experience."

The event offers a unique opportunity for students to explore the nation's capital, meet their peers from across the state and beyond, and engage with the political process. Youth Tour not only highlights the importance of electric cooperatives but also fosters civic engagement and leadership skills.

The itinerary for the Youth Tour was packed with both educational and cultural experiences. The students visited major

landmarks such as Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol and the National Mall. They also visited several museums, including the Smithsonian, Air and Space Museum, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"There's a lot more to Youth Tour than sightseeing," Gross said. "It also provides students with a deeper understanding of American history and government and the role electric and telephone cooperatives play in the communities they serve." One way the students learned about cooperatives was by forming one themselves. The Chip 'n' Pop Co-op is an engaging way to provide the Youth Tour participants with experience in understanding the fundamentals of the cooperative business model. "This hands-on activity emphasizes the importance of teamwork," Gross said. "The students gained practical business skills and a deeper appreciation for cooperatives."

The students created their own snack shop cooperative by forming a nominating committee, electing a board of directors and hiring a co-op manager. They worked together to manage all aspects of the operation and had an equal say in decision-making, just like the cooperatives that sponsored them on the trip.

In addition, the students voted for one of their peers to represent Illinois on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Those interested in becoming Illinois' YLC representative filled out an application, and five were selected to give a speech in front of their peers. Cole Buchanan, representing SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, was selected as the 2024-2025 YLC representative for Illinois. He will represent the state at national and state meetings and events in the year ahead.

"The impact of Youth Tour goes far beyond Washington, D.C.," Gross said. "One of the most impactful parts of Youth Tour is the relationships that students build with their peers from different parts of the state and country. These connections often turn into lifelong friendships."

To learn more about Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthTour.



RELIABILITY: HOME GENERATOR PROGRAM

Launching Soon!

MJM Electric Cooperative plans to launch a home generator program with Wabash Valley Power Alliance, its wholesale power provider, later this summer.

SCAN TO RECEIVE MORE INFO:



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Generac Brand Equipment

- Available for homes that meet specific qualifications
- Starting with Generac brand, will include others later



Incentives

- Incentives will be paid to those who participate



How it Works

- WVPA will instruct your generator to run at least (1) test event/year
- Will enable WVPA to run generator during peak times when MISO declares EEA2 level grid emergency



Benefits of Program

- Response to concerns about grid reliability in light of recent federal rules and regulations
- Will provide homeowners with additional peace of mind & ability to operate their home in emergencies





After the latest app update, some MJM members have experienced issues with receiving notifications for outages, billing, etc.

To check or set up the specific notifications that you want, simply log in to SmartHub and go to:
"Settings > Manage Notifications."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)