

ALONG THE LINES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOL.15, NO. 9

CAMPUS SAFETY

Campus and Dorm electrical safety tips. p.4

GENERATOR SAFETY

Keeping everyone safe when using a generator. p.6

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Tips on being prepared for major storm events. p.7

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 3rd -4th: Teacher Appreciation Weekend at Ekert's Farm in Grafton

Sept. 5th: **Office Closed - Labor Day**

Sept. 11th: Grandparents Day

Sept. 11th: Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance

Sept. 18-24th: Farm Safety and Health Week

Sept. 29th: National Coffee Day

UPCOMING

Nov. 11th: Office Closed - Veterans Day

Holidays observed:

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



OFFICE: 217-707-6156
FAX: 217-854-3918

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

WWW.MJMEC.COOP





NEXT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 3RD

501(c)(3), 501(c), and 509(a)(1) non-for-profits organizations are encouraged to apply for an Operation Round Up (ORU) grant. The mission of the Operation Round Up Program is to assist in strengthening the communities served by MJM Electric. Through this innovative program, the "small change" is earmarked for community betterment groups and other programs in need of financial assistance.

Please send all applications, additional forms, and paperwork to:
Operation Round Up,
P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626.

For more info:

<https://mjmec.coop/operation-round>

OPERATION ROUND UP Grant Review Committee

Operation Round Up needs you! The Grant Review Committee is an important part to the ORU process. They are directly in charge of the decisions for local not-for-profit organizations receiving the ORU grants from MJM.

The Grand Review Committee meets 4 times a year to review applications.

If you are interested in serving a term on the Grant Review Committee, please contact info@mjmec.coop or call 217-707-6156

INSULATION

IS YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER?

Insulation in your home provides resistance to heat flow and lowers your heating and cooling costs. Properly insulating your home not only reduces heating and cooling costs, but also improves comfort. To maintain comfort, the heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system and the heat gained in the summer must be removed by your cooling system. Properly insulating your home will decrease this heat flow by providing an effective resistance to the flow of heat.

Insulation is a crucial component, but it is only one part of an entire system. The thermal envelope system also includes siding, sheathing, vapor and wind barriers, drywall, plaster, and other materials that prevent heat loss through air leaks and keep wind from penetrating the thermal envelope. If any one of these components is deficient, the system is compromised, and the thermal insulating capabilities are reduced. Reducing the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home is a cost-effective way to cut heating and cooling costs, improve durability, increase comfort, and create a healthier indoor environment. Caulking and weatherstripping are two simple and effective air-sealing techniques that offer quick returns on investment, often one year or less. Caulk is generally used for cracks and openings between stationary house components such as around door and window frames, and weatherstripping is used to seal components that move, such as doors and operable windows.

Homes that were built prior to 1970 have little or no insulation. They are prime targets for insulation. Newer homes have adequate levels of insulation as required by the municipal building codes.

MJM website resource page:

<https://mjmec.coop/saving-energy-101>

Source: *Energy.gov*

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/insulation>





**18300 Shipman Road (PO Box 80)
Carlinville, IL 62626**

Office: 1-217-707-6156

Pay by Phone: 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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How to report an outage:

Call 217-707-6156 or use your SmarHub 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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Being prepared is half the battle when it comes to severe wether.

PHOTO CONTEST SUBJECT: FARM/HARVEST PRIZE: \$15 BILL CREDIT



Do you have a cool picture of your farm that you want to show off? Whether it is during a sunset, before a storm rolls in, or just of how nice your farm/fields look, we would love to share it with the rest of our members. In appreciation of the many farms we serve, MJM is holding a photo contest to feature during Harvest season. Photos can be submitted between **August 1st and September 30th**. Results and pictures will be in the **November issue** of our newsletter, Along the Lines. The winning photo will receive a **\$15 bill credit** and a feature spot in the newsletter.

To enter your photo, you can email:

info@mjmec.coop

with the subject line "Farm Photo 2022."



PLEASE RECYCLE



CAMPUS/DORM ROOM ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Today's college student uses many electronics for school, work, and play. When used improperly, these helpful gadgets can become electric hazards. If you or a loved one is heading off to college, Safe Electricity has the following tips to prevent electric accidents and fires.

- Extension cords are only for temporary use. Dorm rooms may not have enough outlets to plug in all your gadgets at once. If you must use extension cords, use them temporarily and unplug them when not in use.
- Consider purchasing power strips with an over-current protector, which will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps; if no indication is on the fixture, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, and other flammable material.
- Discard or repair damaged electronics. It may be tempting to use an electronic with a frayed cord or damaged plug-in to save money. However, damaged electronics should not be used, since they can shock or electrocute students.

- If your lights flicker, electronics shut off, or circuits trip—notify campus staff.
- Use only laboratory certified appliances and electronics.
- Watch out for overheated outlets. If an electrical outlet becomes so hot you cannot leave your hand on it, there is potential for a fire. Unplug everything from the outlet and notify landlord or dorm officials immediately.
- College students should also know what to do if there is a fire, including escape and meeting plans.

There are more than 3,500 fires on college campuses every year. Help prevent fires by understanding electrical safety and sharing what you know with loved ones.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



WHO IS WILLIE WIREDHAND?

Willie Wiredhand was created by Andrew McClay Oct. 30, 1950. McClay, a former entomologist, worked as a freelance artist for NRECA.

Staff on NRECA's flagship publication, RE Magazine, thought McClay's cartoon would serve as a graphical representation of a farmer's hired hand. McClay took ownership of the idea, and "Willie the Wired Hand" was born. The name was later shortened to "Willie Wiredhand."

NRECA's membership chose Willie to represent electric cooperatives in 1951. Since then, Willie has been a distinguished and well-loved mascot in electric cooperative communities. Willie is featured on a few MJM vehicles, documents, and around the office.

Source: *NRECA*

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



©NRECA



Reducing Emissions

Fossil-fuel-based power plants in the U.S. have been getting exponentially cleaner over the past 50 years. Power producers have spent billions on equipment that scrubs combustion gas of compounds like mercury, non-mercury metals, gases like nitrous oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx) and particulate. Here are some of the key devices used to clean emissions.

ACI

(Activated Carbon Injection)

Activated carbon absorbs mercury and other compounds from flue gas and is collected in ESP devices.

SCR

(Selective Catalytic Reduction)

Ammonia is added to the flue gas and, using a catalyst bed, converts nitrogen oxides (NOx) into nitrogen and water. The process removes up to 90% of NOx.

ESP

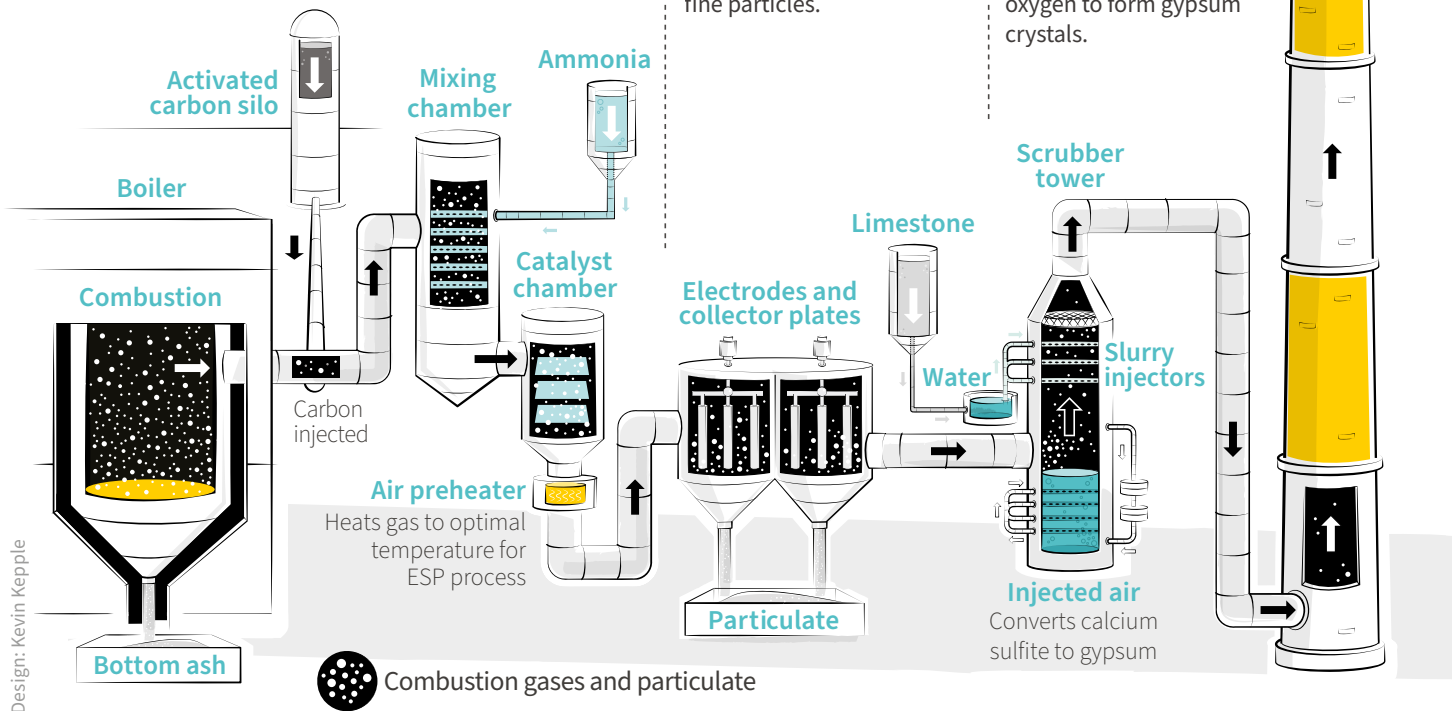
(Electrostatic Precipitators)

Flue gases pass through electrodes, which charge particulate like dust and smoke and allow them to be trapped by a collector plate. This process can remove more than 99% of fine particles.

FGD

(Flue Gas Desulfurization)

When flue gas is mixed with a limestone slurry, sulfur dioxide is removed and the limestone becomes calcium sulfite. That settles in a pool below and is mixed with oxygen to form gypsum crystals.



Source: NRECA Business & Technology Strategies; Design: Kevin Kepple

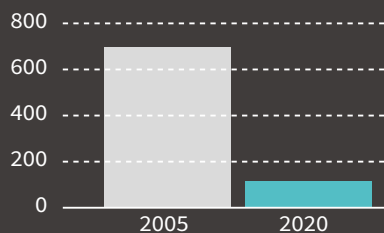
Massive Reductions

Over the past 15 years, generation and transmission cooperatives have made huge cuts in their power plant emissions by using flue gas scrubbing technologies.

Source: EPA and EIA

Total SO₂ emissions

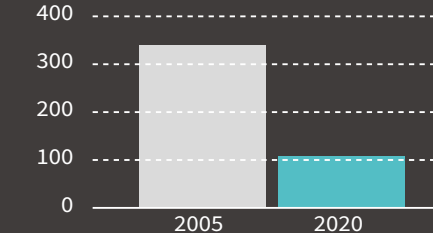
Thousands (short tons)



Reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 84%

Total NO_x emissions

Thousands (short tons)



Reduced nitrogen oxide emissions by 68%



GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

Portable or permanently installed standby generators can come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best suited to your needs. Before using, read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back onto the utility electrical equipment, when it could be dangerous to a lineman or others near downed power lines, a process known as "back feed." A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

Safe Electricity has the following tips to use portable generators safely:

- Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall to avoid back feed. Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Turn the generator on before plugging appliances to it. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage; prioritize your needs.

- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Safe Electricity suggests these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

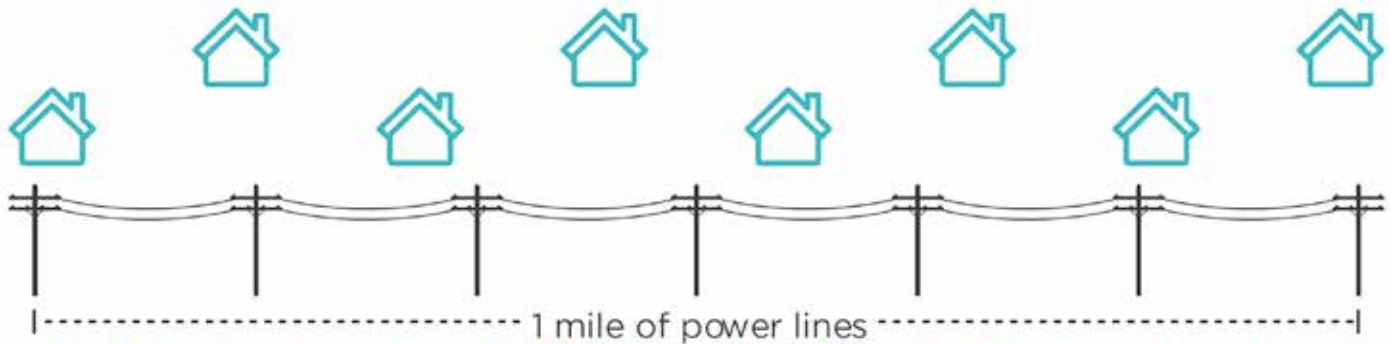
Source: *Dept. of Energy*



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

**On Average Electric Co-ops serve 8 members per mile of line.
MJM serves approximately 4-5 per mile of line.**



OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES
Serve 32 consumers per mile of line

SEPTEMBER IS

**NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**



















Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties, and lives. These storms can also take down power lines—creating a dangerous situation for all of us, including the line crews working hard to get your power turned back on. Contact your electric utility to report the outage (217-707-6156) and use caution if venturing outside after a storm.

- If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away, and keep others away. **Do not drive over it**, as snagging the line could pull a pole and other equipment to the ground. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.

- If you come in contact with a downed power line, **do not leave the car**. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows, & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
-  Cash and credit cards
-  Emergency numbers
-  Important documents (in a waterproof container)
-  Toys, books, & games
-  Baby supplies
-  Pet supplies

Source: SafeElectricity.org



MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: 17 pieces of Fostoria Coin Glass in mostly Amber, Green, and Red+White from over 50 years of collecting. Stamp Books for 1971-2021 with each stamps for whole year. Made each year for every year.
Call: 217-533-4468

FOR SALE: John Deere 3-pt 60" pull behind finish mower, excellent condition, \$1100.00 call 217-851-7067

FOR SALE: 2 Vaults, 2 Spaces, 1 Companion Marker. Lot#36-B/ Unit 1&2, Sect. 3. Garden of Christus, located at Roselawn Memory Gardens in Bethalto, IL 62010. Complete package would cost \$11,000 now. Asking \$9,000 (OBO). Call Darrel: 618-946-1093

FOR SALE: Triple Wall Stove Pipe: three pieces - 3 ft - 14 in, 2 pieces - 1 ft -14 in, two pieces - 45 degree -14 inch and one-rain cap 14 inch. Retails new for approx. \$1000, will accept reasonable offer. Grafton IL area.
618-410-6275

FOR SALE: 16' trailer, double axle, dove tail, comes with metal and wooden sides, metal ramps, spare tire, tool box. Excellent condition, asking \$2,000. (Bunker Hill) 618-303-3095 or 618-585-4716