

the Messenger

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Keeping You Safe During and After Summer Storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. North Arkansas Electric Cooperative encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a land line phone or toaster.

Skip the makeshift shelter — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

Portable generators — Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas — Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to North Arkansas Electric Cooperative by calling 870.895.3221 immediately.

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Energy Efficiency Makeover Contest to Benefit 17 Electric Cooperative Members

Seventeen electric cooperative members will be selected as grand-prize winners in the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Ninth Annual Energy Efficiency Makeover Contest. The winning members, one from each of Arkansas' 17 electric distribution cooperatives, will each receive up to \$5,000 in energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The application deadline is July 15.

According to Bret Curry, manager of residential energy marketing for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, "Any member can improve the energy efficiency of their home by mirroring the solutions made during the Energy Efficiency Makeover. The makeover process is a great avenue to educate members about do-it-yourself techniques and learn the right questions to ask when hiring contractors to address energy-related issues."

"Once the winners are selected, our trained contractors will visit each home and complete a comprehensive energy audit to pinpoint problem areas," Curry said. "The makeover solutions will target areas of unwanted air infiltration, proper installation of attic insulation, repairs and sealing of heating and cooling system ductwork and the installation of energy efficient light bulbs. The 17 makeovers are valued at up to \$5,000 each and will help lower electric bills, while improving the comfort level of the winning homes."

Curry said the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas have long promoted energy efficiency, and the Energy Efficiency Makeover contest is a major part of that effort. "Seventeen lucky people will win grand-prizes; however, the project is designed to have a much broader impact," he said. "By documenting the process of the makeovers via the Internet, Arkansas Living magazine, Facebook and other media outlets, the cooperatives help educate Arkansans on methods to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient."

To be eligible for the 2016 contest, applicants must own their home and property, sign the requisite form, include a photo of the front of their home, be members in good standing with one of Arkansas' 17 electric distribution cooperatives and have all-electric homes. Member can apply at www.eca-homemakeover.com or use the entry form provided in the Arkansas Living magazine.

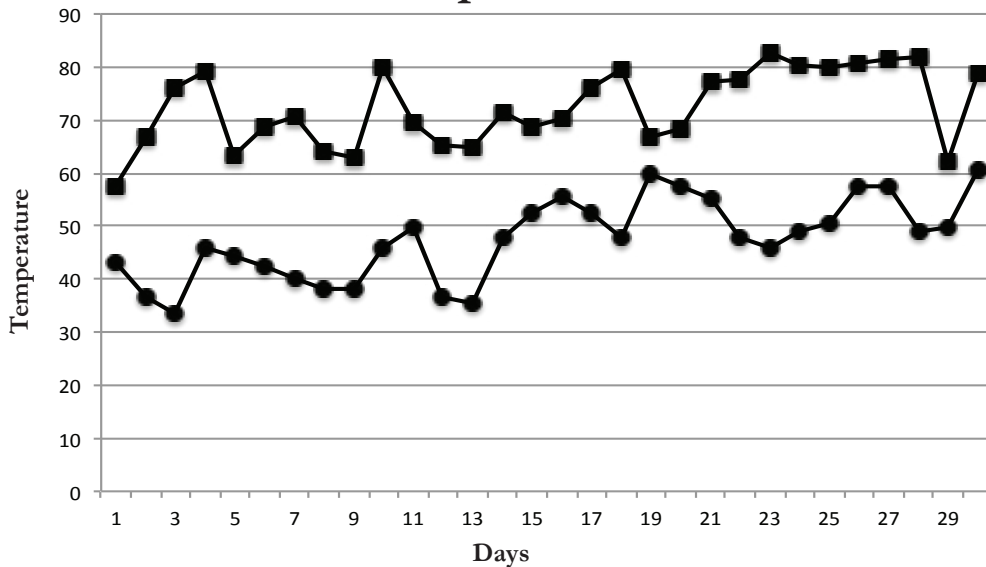


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Daily Highs & Lows

April 2016



Average Daily High:
72.40 compared to 71.26 in 2015

Average Daily Low:
47.56 compared to 48.15 in 2015

Total Rainfall Amount:
3.1" compared to 3.85" in 2015

Warmest Day:
April 23rd, 82.6 degrees at 4:30 p.m.

Coollest Day:
April 3rd, 33.4 degrees at 7:30 a.m.

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Electrical equipment — Never use electrical equipment that is wet — especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative is a proud member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Along with 750 electric cooperatives nationwide, we have partnered with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our number one concern. For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

Beware of Scams

As we continue to grow into a society that relies more and more on technology, there are more risks to which we become exposed. This includes everything from potential scams to identity theft and cybersecurity attacks.

At North Arkansas Electric Cooperative we want you to be aware and cautious that these kinds of threats are real. At any given time, you may receive unsolicited communication from individuals falsely claiming to be representatives of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative.

We regularly see reports from members of individuals calling members, threatening imminent disconnection of service unless payment is made immediately. In most cases, payment is requested in cash at a third-party location. These calls are scams.

In addition, members may also receive communication from individuals who are soliciting a service, claiming to be representatives of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative. These calls should also be treated as scams as well.

The cooperative does make courtesy calls on delinquent accounts but we always call from a local number and provide a local call back number.

If you ever receive communication from an individual who you believe to be falsifying information, or making odd requests, hang up immediately and contact anyone of our three local offices to verify the legitimacy of the call. If in fact the call is a scam, this would allow us to also alert other members if necessary.

In addition to scams, we also want members to understand that identity theft and cybersecurity risks continue to grow. You can rest assured, however, that we maintain the highest of security and account verification standards to protect confidential information.



Right-of-Way Locations

Asplundh Tree Trim Crews:
Bandmill, Wideman, Pineville, and Calico Rock Areas

We Want Your Response

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative abides by seven cooperative principles. The first principle of voluntary and open membership describes how cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

As a member-owned cooperative, we want your input. If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the operation of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, please send them to Messenger, P.O. Box 1000, Salem, AR 72576, or e-mail us at info@naeci.com. Names will be withheld upon request, but all letters should be signed. All letters will be considered for publication in the Messenger or Rural Arkansas Magazine.

We appreciate your support these past 75 years and look forward to serving you in the future.