

# *the* Messenger

November 2016

*A monthly publication of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative*



NAEC's Chris Waltrip, kneeling at left, and James Woody present a high-voltage safety trailer demonstration to the Ozark Amateur Radio Club.

## Club members learn danger of contacting power lines

Members of the Ozark Amateur Radio Club learned firsthand the dangers of coming into contact with energized lines during a high-voltage safety trailer demonstration at NAEC's Mountain Home office Oct. 6.

James Woody, manager of operations, and Chris Waltrip, training and safety coordinator, stressed the importance of keeping away from downed power lines to stay safe.

Armed with their protective safety gear, they showed what happens when different materials, such as wood and rope, come into contact with energized lines. They also discussed the basics of electricity, from why maintaining the right-of-way is important to why lights occasionally blink.

NAEC personnel use the safety trailer, which is a small replica of the distribution system, to educate emergency personnel and others who might come into contact with our system.



Chris Waltrip, training and safety coordinator, uses a piece of wood to demonstrate the danger of contacting energized power lines.

## Save energy, money by sealing cracks

Finding and sealing air leaks can save you energy and money. Here's a tip from NAEC that can help keep your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter while lowering your utility bills.

Caulking cracks and openings can save you \$212 a year. Find cracks by waiting for a windy day and then carefully holding a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical outlets and other spots where outside air may infiltrate. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, then you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

Experts recommend using waterproof, flexible

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## Efficiency Tip of the Month

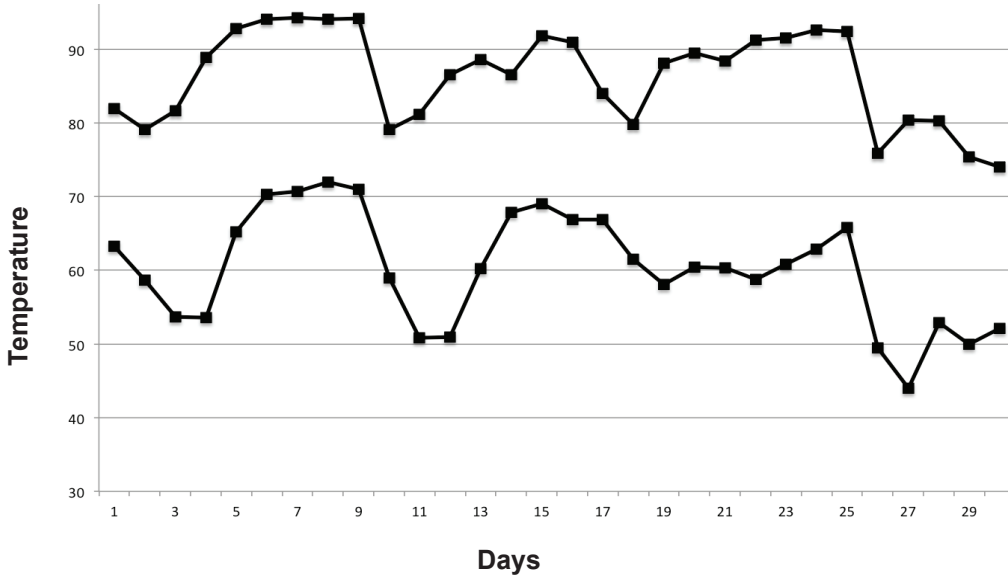


Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill.

By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save approximately 30 percent on your monthly energy bill.

— [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

# Daily Highs & Lows — September 2016



**Average Daily High:**  
86.3 compared to 84.3 in 2015

**Average Daily Low:**  
60.2 compared to 58.5 in 2015

**Total Rainfall Amount:**  
3.85" compared to 0.06" in 2015

**Warmest Day:**  
Sept. 7, 94.3 degrees at 2 p.m.

**Coolest Day:**  
Sept. 27, 44 degrees at 7 a.m.

# HAPPY THANKS GIVING!

Co-op offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24.  
Crews will be on hand in the event of an outage. Please report an outage by calling 870-895-3221, 870-425-2141 or 870-994-2191.

## Right-of-Way Locations

West Tree Trim Crews:  
Buford, Gassville, Buffalo City

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and long-lasting silicone caulk to seal cracks and gaps that are less than one-quarter-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk. It's best to do this on a dry day when humidity is low and temperatures are above 45 degrees F.

## Attaching signs to poles presents safety hazards

Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs — as well as the signs themselves — pose dangers to North Arkansas Electric Cooperative line workers who must climb poles when either restoring power following storms or while performing routine maintenance to ensure system reliability.

Posters or other objects (birdhouses, balloons, flags and even basketball nets) can create dangerous obstacles.

Also, the nails and tacks left behind from signs can cut utility workers', snag boots or puncture safety gloves and clothing, making them vulnerable to falling from the pole or even to being electrocuted.

In addition to being hazardous, tampering with utility poles is against the law. In Arkansas, posting signs or attaching other objects to utility poles can result in a fine between \$50 and \$500 if convicted.

NAEC encourages members to contact city or county officials to inquire about where signage may be posted legally.

— Chris Grammes/NRECA



Signs and other items should not be attached to utility poles. The nails and tacks left behind can cut line personnel or puncture safety gear.

BUTLER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# We salute our veterans Nov. 11 and every day!