the Messenger

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Before removing a fallen tree, confirm no power lines are in the area. If there are, stay away.

Stay clear of downed power lines

Storms, trees and other events sometimes can take down power lines on NAEC's system. When that happens, we ask that you take three actions:

1. Stay far away from the downed lines.
2. Warn other people to do the same.
3. Contact NAEC or local law enforcement personnel immediately. You can reach the co-op 24 hours a day by dialing 870-895-3221.

Following these steps are vital to ensure you and others nearby remain safe until the scene is secure.

NAEC linemen and right-of-way workers have the knowledge, training and equipment to remove objects from the lines and get power back on as safely and quickly as possible.

"Some people mistakenly believe downed lines have to be arcing or sparking to be energized," said Chris Waltrip, NAEC's training and safety coordinator. "That is not the case."

Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized line making them dangerous as well. You need to avoid downed lines even in vehicles. Driving over them could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

Also be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Keep in mind a downed power line that is energized can cause other things around it to become potentially hazardous, traveling through the ground to bodies of water, chain link fences and other objects.

In addition, a line that is indeed “dead” could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

ISTOCK/ANDREY POPOV

Fall is here, and that means colder temperatures will be here before we know it.

Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter?

Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

— U.S. Department of Energy

'Co-ops Commit' theme for 2017 Co-op Month

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative is joining 30,000 cooperatives from all sectors to celebrate National Co-op Month in October.

During these 31 days, we recognize the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities we serve.

“Co-ops Commit” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the ways cooperatives meet the needs of our members and communities.

“Our cooperative provides electricity to 36,000 members in north Arkansas,” said CEO Mel Coleman. “Delivering safe, reliable and affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Any profits generated by NAEC goes back to those we serve not Wall Street.”

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

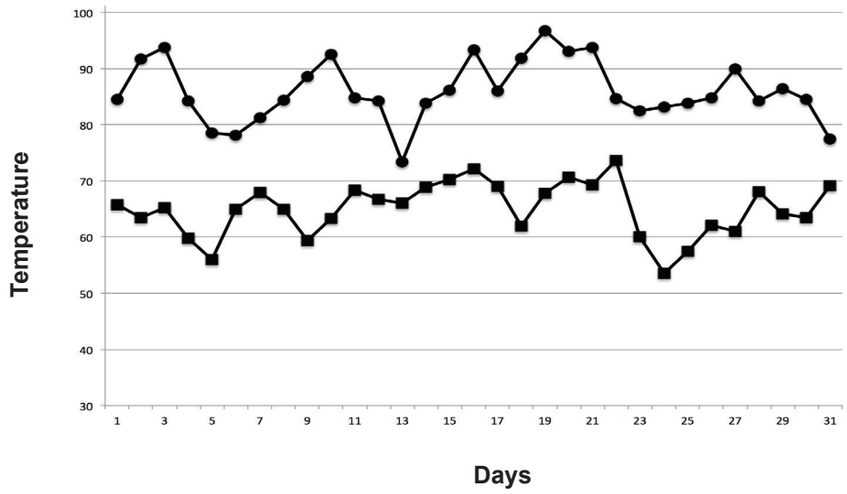
In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, NAEC supports our schools, nonprofit organizations and chambers of commerce through donations and volunteer efforts. We also work to educate both children and adults on electrical safety and energy efficiency.

To celebrate National Co-op Month, NAEC will hold a drawing in each office for one of three gift baskets filled with items produced by cooperatives, such as Blue Diamond almonds and Welch's jam. Be sure to stop by our Ash Flat, Mountain Home or Salem office by Oct. 31 to enter for a chance to win. Three winners will be notified by phone the first week of November.

Follow #CoopMonth on Facebook and Twitter to see how co-ops across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month.

NAEC North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Daily Highs & Lows — August 2017



Average Daily High:
86.01 compared to 88.95 in 2016

Average Daily Low:
64.98 compared to 69.66 in 2016

Total Rainfall Amount:
2.48" compared to 8.6" in 2016

Warmest Days:
Aug. 19, 96.7 degrees at 2:30 p.m.

Coolest Day:
Aug. 24, 53.5 degrees at 6:30 a.m.

Take these measures to avoid 'vampire loads'

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads.

Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn chargers are using small amounts of energy when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the "instant-on" feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? You just need to change how you handle these electronics. Here are a few suggestions:

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the "master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment set ups. Have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming devices, etc. will turn on too.
- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console off when you finish using it.
- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an Energy Star-rated product.

— Tom Tate/NRECA

Right-of-Way

West Tree Trim Crews:
Lakeview, west side of Salem and Sturkie areas

Right-of-Way Spraying
Clarkridge, Gamaliel, Henderson, Hand Cove, Float Creek, Viola, Mitchell, Elizabeth, Wild Cherry, Salem, Glencoe, Wheeling, Byron, Heart, Morriston, Wirth and Ravenden

High-voltage education

Chris Waltrip, NAEC training and safety coordinator, demonstrates for Baxter Regional Medical Center paramedics and employees the danger of coming into contact with energized lines Aug. 31.