

the Messenger

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ALLIANCE CLAYTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A sign and bird house are illegally attachment to an electric pole. These items and their sharp nails or staples can injure line technicians or puncture their protective gloves.

For safety, keep items off poles

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn't only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of line workers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a nail partially driven into a pole can pierce a line worker's glove, stripping away critical protection from high-voltage electricity.

"Co-op line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions," said Chris Waltrip, NAEC's training and safety coordinator. "Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Nails, tacks, staples, barbed wire and other sharp object can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution."

Line workers have reported more poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk — anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electric Safety Code. With this danger in mind, many states make it a crime to attach any unapproved item to a utility pole.

Please help us keep our linemen — and our community — safe. Remove any unauthorized items attached to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the co-op or another utility will be removed.

— Megan McKoy-Noe/NRECA

Happy Thanksgiving!

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.

Crews will be on call in case of an outage. To report an outage at any time, please contact our dispatch center. You may use one of the following toll-free numbers:

- From Baxter County — 870-425-2141
- From Fulton County — 870-895-3221
- From IZard County — 870-670-5600
- From Sharp County — 870-994-2191

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to fall back on November 5!
Set your clocks back by one hour.



Efficiency Tip of the Month



Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season?

Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, such as toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

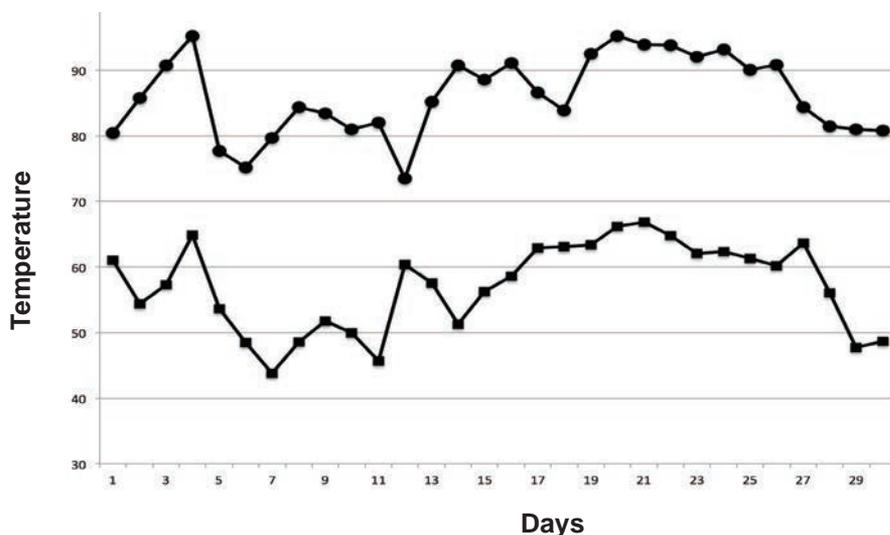
— U.S. Department of Energy

Right-of-Way

West Tree Trim Crews:

Salem, Sturkie, Horseshoe Bend and Franklin areas

Daily Highs & Lows — September 2017



Average Daily High:
86.14 compared to 86.3 in 2016

Average Daily Low:
57.10 compared to 60.2 in 2016

Total Rainfall Amount:
0.18" compared to 3.85" in 2016

Warmest Days:
Sept. 4, 95.2 degrees at 3 p.m.
Sept. 20, 95.2 degrees at 3:30 p.m.

Coolest Day:
Sept. 7, 43.8 degrees at 7 a.m.

Energy efficiency for modern family and devices

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, then you are not alone.

The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, and approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms — controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices.

One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, such as Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules, so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

You also can ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features, such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers also allow you to program when you want the load to start.

'Old school' energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested "old school" methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of house-

hold electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

Although modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains energy advisers from North Arkansas Electric Cooperative.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, NAEC can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

Contact NAEC by calling 870-895-3221 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by emailing info@naeci.com at any time.

— Anne Prince/NRECA

