

News & Views

Digital meter installation nearly complete

New technology brings advantages, cautions

The installation of the upgraded digital meters that began in 2015 is nearing completion. These meters bring added benefits to the member and the cooperative but most notable is the ability to detect power interruptions in near real-time, allowing us to be onsite within 10 to 30 minutes after receiving notification.

This advance in technology brings better communication and outage management capabilities to the cooperative and the member, but it also comes with a note of caution. It is important that we receive advance notification in instances where you or an electrician need access to the meter base, and that the meter is removed only by Johnson County REMC personnel.

We operate under the motto of *Safety First*, and our personnel have the proper training on our equipment to eliminate the risk of shock, arcing, or damage that

may occur when a meter is pulled. The cooperative does not charge a fee to pull a meter if it is scheduled in advance and performed during regular business hours.

If, though, we detect what appears to be an outage and is instead a meter that has been manually pulled, it is our policy in such instances to recover the trip fee and any damage costs from the member. Be

safe and call us ahead of time.

We look forward to the improvements the upgraded meters will bring to our members and the cooperative.



Johnson County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*The mission of
Johnson County REMC
is to provide reliable,
competitively priced
utility services
to its customers
and the community.*

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Membership matters

Belonging to a cooperative has its benefits

There are different types of electric utilities - investor-owned utilities, city-owned municipal electric system, and electric cooperatives. Johnson County REMC



falls into this last category. We are a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by you and your fellow members. As an electric cooperative, Johnson County REMC is unique because we answer only to those we serve - the members of the cooperative. And we are governed by a board of directors who are also members themselves.

This business structure keeps the cooperative financially sound and your electric bill affordable.

Only in an electric cooperative can you be a member. Every home or business that receives power from an electric cooperative owns a portion of the utility. As a result, anyone who receives cooperative electric service is not just a customer, but a member.

And as a member you have a stake in the business and are entitled to a return on your equity portion, called capital credits. In fact we have retired a total of over \$5,000,000.00 in capital credits.

And membership matters because through democratic control, you have a voice and a vote in how your co-op is governed. As a not-for-profit our sole mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. Being a member matters.



Membership matters – You are a part of something special! Learn about the cooperative difference in this engaging three-minute video that tells the Electric Cooperative Story and illustrates the value of being a cooperative member.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tenKnIx4ouY>.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month Johnson County REMC reminds our members to use electricity safely. Electricity is one of the greatest conveniences of all time but it is important to give electricity the respect it deserves. Electrical safety awareness can save lives. This is just a simple

reminder to always take precautions around electricity and protect yourself.

The calendar provided below details some simple things you can do to put safety first all year long. For more indoor, and for outdoor safety tips, visit

www.esfi.org.

Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit esfi.org.

JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:

Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

More electrical safety tips

1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage. Replace any that are damaged.



2. Test GFCIs and AFCIs

Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps” or “beeps” to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.



Know what's below—call before you dig



Call 811 at least 48 hours in advance to have your underground utility lines marked before beginning any project that requires digging. Visit the 811 website at <http://indiana811.org>.

Stay safe from lightning—when thunder roars, go indoors!



As the air is heated by the sun, energy is created with air movement, and lightning typically

comes from towering storm clouds. Fortunately, accidents involving lightning are very avoidable. Safe Electricity has the following suggestions to stay safe from the dangers of lightning.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. It is important to be aware of weather forecasts and watch for developing thunderstorms, which occur more often in spring and summer.

Lightning can strike many miles ahead of a storm front. If you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately, because that indicates lightning is within 10 miles of you. Safe shelters include

inside a building or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle.

If you are inside a building, the National Weather Service advises you to stay off corded telephones, or away from any electrical device that could carry an electrical surge if lightning were carried into your home through wiring. Turn off or unplug such appliances, stay away from television sets, and do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike. Conductors can also include the plumbing in your house.

Authorities warn against outdoor activity until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

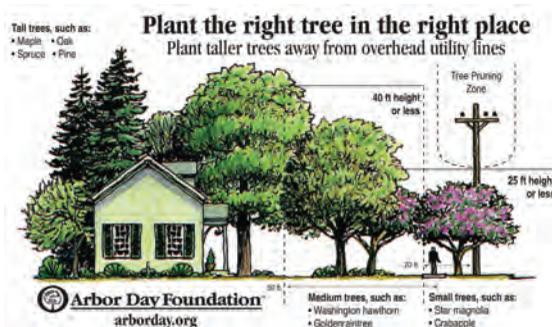
Source: *SafeElectricity.org*

Proper tree planting

Trees, like kids, grow up fast. Spring and tree planting go together, but it's important to consider the tree's purpose, and size at maturity, and plant the right tree in the right place.

Visit www.ArborDay.org for an overview on selecting the proper tree for the planting area. And with May being National Electric Safety Month, remember to call 811

before you dig to have underground lines located on your property.



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