



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Thank a lineman on April 11

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. On April 11, RECC will honor the dedicated men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on

high-voltage lines," said President/CEO David Stuva. "Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through

to ensure reliable service for our members."

RECC's ten linemen and support staff maintain 1,347 miles of line across parts of Sangamon, Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery and Morgan counties. We invite members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #thankalineman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives, or go to Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's Facebook page to leave a comment.



Curt Nichelson earns Supervisory Certificate

Crew Foreman Curt Nichelson recently completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) supervisory certificate program. Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby (right) presented the Supervisory Certificate on February 12. The program recognizes the educational development of electric cooperative professionals who are working in a supervisory role. Curt has been at RECC since 1980.

The NRECA courses cover a range of issues faced by supervisors – time management, conflict negotiation, and effective communication – and helps them build the skills necessary to address those issues effectively.



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Know what's below before you dig

Make sure utility lines aren't in the way

Planning a home improvement project? Always remember that working near electrical wires or equipment can be dangerous. Keep an eye out for overhead lines when moving ladders or working on your roof. If you need to work near an electrical line, ask RECC to disconnect service wires so you can do the job safely.

If you will be digging for new trees, fence posts or footings for a new deck, make sure there aren't any underground utility lines in the area. There may be electric or phone wires, cable TV, water pipes or even fiber optic cables on the property. Many utilities are buried just inches below the surface.

State law requires you to call the JULIE Illinois one-call system at 8-1-1 or online at illinois1call.com to request underground locates in the vicinity of your digging project. JULIE will contact local utility companies to locate their



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

water, sewer, electric, phone, cable and other utility lines.

You or your contractor must call JULIE at least two working days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the start of the project. Your

JULIE Locate Request should include:

- Your name, address, phone number, and an email or fax number if available.
- The location of the excavation project, including county, city or township; section and quarter section numbers if available; address; cross street within ¼ mile; subdivision name, etc.
- Start date and time of planned excavation.

You or your contractor must call JULIE at least two working days before the start of the project.

- Type and extent of excavation involved.
- Whether the dig area has been outlined with paint, flags or stakes.

You will be provided with a dig number that identifies specific information about your locate request. Your project should start within two weeks so that any marking flags or paint will still be in place.

The locating service is free.



Call Before You Dig

Co-op volunteers help in New Orleans

Thom Hart, RECC Director from Waggoner, his wife Mary, and 100 other volunteers worked on five homes in New Orleans before the start of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting on February 13. Thom says the homes still need repairs from Hurricane Katrina, and the owners are elderly or disabled and can't do the work themselves. Thom is pictured at left building a fence for an Air Force veteran's home, assisted by volunteer Aaron Johnson, a representative of CoBank from Denver.





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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Be prepared for humid summer weather!

Warm weather will soon be with us, and along with higher temperatures we'll also see rising humidity levels. High humidity can make us less comfortable, add to our air conditioning bills, and possibly cause damage in our homes.

Generally speaking, when there is more moisture in the air, the temperature feels hotter than it actually is because moist air is closer to saturation than dry air. On a humid day, when the air is saturated with water, evaporation is much slower. Simply put, high humidity will make the air feel hotter while low humidity will make the temperature feel cooler.

Air conditioning systems cool the air temperatures in our homes, but they also are designed to remove some of the moisture content, which lowers humidity. That's why your air conditioner needs a drain to carry condensed water away from the unit.

Sources of humidity

We know the outside air will be more humid in the summer, and one goal of energy efficiency is to keep that warm, humid air from coming into the house. We're not talking about insulation, but about air sealing your home.

Tight-fitting doors and windows are a starting point, and they provide potential for fairly easy improvements such as caulking, adding weather stripping and door sweep strips. Crawl space vents and basement windows should be closed. Other openings around vent pipes and plumbing should be caulked.

You need to keep water and moisture out of the basement and crawl space, which means you need good drainage around the foundation. Rain gutters should be routed away from the house. If you have a crawl space the floor should be covered with plastic

sheeting, overlapped and taped at the seams.

Bathrooms should have exhaust fans that are vented to the outside (not into the attic). These fans should run several minutes after a bath or shower to remove the moisture that's been added to the air.

If a home has too much moisture, indoor air quality can be compromised and mold and mildew problems can develop.

Air conditioning systems

Next, make sure your air conditioning system is the right size. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that most current residential systems are oversized. If your unit is too big, you will pay higher energy bills, and won't get the efficiency level or comfort you want and expect. It is also likely that the unit is "short cycling," constantly turning off and on, never achieving optimum efficiency.

If you are considering a new heating/cooling system, a dealer should do a heat loss and gain calculation to help you choose equipment that is the correct size.

If you have questions about energy efficiency in your home, give us a call at 438-6197. We're your source of power and information!

