

Keep your home safe from electrical fires

Your lights turn on in an instant, and your plug slides into outlets without sparks or shocks. You can't see it, and typically don't think much about it. However, the electricity that we take for granted every day requires attention to prevent potential hazards. Safe Electricity offers these tips to help keep your home safe from electrical problems and fires:

- Have all work done by a qualified electrician.
- Get regular check-ups for older homes, which have older wiring and are often designed for fewer appliances and electronics. Have the electrical system checked every five to 10 years, depending on the age of your home. If your home is older than 30 years, make sure the wiring meets updated National Electrical Code standards.
- Watch for warning signs such as hot or discolored switch plates, cords or plugs; dimming or flickering lights; buzzing or sizzling sounds. If you smell a burning odor, check it out immediately and unplug electric items in that area.
- Immediately repair loose outlets, and discard or replace cracked, cut or broken insulation on electric cords.
- Keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas so they don't get stepped on, damaged or cause a tripping hazard.
- Use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring. Too many extension cords in one area creates a risk of overheating or overloading circuits.
- Never use cords or appliances that have exposed, damaged or faulty wiring. Have them repaired or replaced.
- Avoid using nails or staples to secure electric cords in place. When an electrical cord is punctured, it increases the likelihood of electric shock and fire.
- When you replace light bulbs, ensure that you match the recommended wattage for your lamp or other light fixtures. Using an incorrect wattage increases the likelihood for electrical fires.
- If small children are present, install tamper resistant outlets or use outlet covers to reduce the risk of shocks and fire.
- Educate your loved ones on the dangers of electricity and provide guidance on care for your appliances and electronics.

Electrical safety can also reduce energy waste and save on the power bill. Turn off electronics and lights when they are not in use. This reduces heat as it lower electricity use.

Learn more about home electrical safety at SafeElectricity.org.



Clay Electric hires new service representative

Clay Electric Co-operative recently hired Jamie Myers of Flora as the new part time service representative. She will work part time and will cross train to jump in and help Karen and Carrie with their duties when they cannot be here. She will be waiting on members at the counter, drive-up window and taking phone calls when she is here.

Jamie has accounting skills and extensive customer service background experience, which will be a great fit for her new employment.

She lives in Flora along with her husband Andy and two daughters Mallory and Marli. Family involvement is very important to her, and she wants to stay in Clay County where most of her

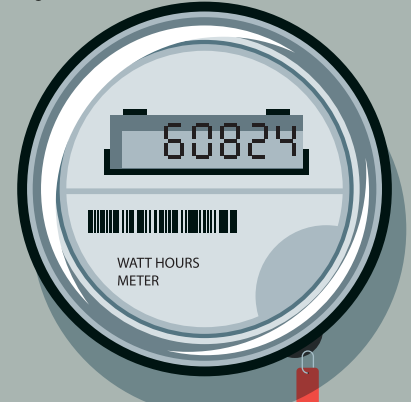


family resides. She enjoys horse-back riding and her daughters' sporting events. She admits that they attend events even when the girls are not participating.

Congratulations to Jamie on her new position in our cooperative family.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



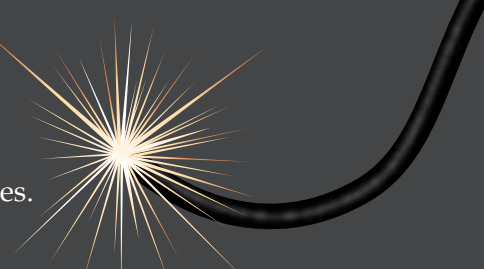
- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!



Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting November 27, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the Cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2017.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepper, and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose Executive V.P. General Manager, Tyra Cycholl, CECI Attorney, Doug Hockman, and Luke Johnson, CECI employees. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Danny Schnepper.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

Heard a report on the Rural Economic Developers Association meeting attended by Doug Hockman. After the report Hockman left the meeting.

Approved the November suggested agenda as amended moving items 30 & 31 to the beginning of the meeting.

Heard a report by Trustee Czyzewski and the Building Committee regarding the new building and the asbestos report of the old office building.

Approved the consent agenda as presented including the following:

Approved, the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on October 23, 2017.

Reviewed, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and

admit to membership those 11 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 16 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

Approved, the list of work orders in the amount of \$69,764.92.

Reviewed the checklist for the month of October 2017.

Approved the October Credit Card Statements.

Reviewed the October Attorney Retainer.

Approved voting by proxy for the SEDC Annual Meeting.

Reviewed the proposed 2018 Budget. The 2018 Budget will be presented at the December Board Meeting.

Reviewed Annual fuel bids.

Approved the low bid submitted by South Central FS.

Heard a report by Luke Johnson regarding the pole storage racks.

Reviewed bids that were submitted. Johnson then left the meeting.

Reviewed correspondence from NRECA regarding assistance in Puerto Rico.

Discussed NRECA Annual Meeting plans.

Informed that the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment was made.

Reviewed the CFC Return Payment.

Reviewed the CFC Credit Card Rebate.

Informed that the CFC Line of Credit is open for the new building project. **Reviewed** the Revolving Line of Credit Agreement.

Heard a report regarding the CFC Integrity Fund Balances.

Heard a report on the recent SIPC meeting by Trustee Herman.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose on the Prairie State Energy Campus.

Heard a report by Kevin Logan on the recent AIEC meeting.

Reviewed the AIEC correspondence regarding LIHEAP and Prepay Billing.

Reviewed the AIEC Legislative Update.

Informed of the United Utility Supply rebate.

Heard a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- October 2017 Form 7
- October 2017 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in October 2017 dated November 7, 2017
- October 2017 Power Factor.
- October 2017 Power Cost Adder
- October Line Loss.

Heard a General Safety Report for October 2017.

Reviewed Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated November 13, 2017.

Heard and Approved a report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- CoBank Line of Credit
- Vermont Electric restoration assistance
- 2017 Capital Credit Retirement letters
- Union addendum of Part Time Service Representative
- Oil Belt Christian Service Camp sound upgrade
- AIEC Regulatory update
- Tri County Solar member
- IPA Renewable portfolio statement
- State of Illinois delinquent billing
- Upcoming meetings

Reviewed Thank You card from; Vermont Electric Cooperative.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased Member. **Approved** the retirement pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Reviewed one liability insurance certificate.

Adjourned

Preparation is power: Weathering winter outages

Anyone who has weathered prolonged outages due to an ice or winter storm will tell you it is more than inconvenient. Such an outage during cold weather creates an additional set of challenges and safety requirements. Prepare now to ensure you're not left in the cold when the next one happens.

Safe Electricity recommends assembling an emergency kit with essential items such as:

- Flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Non-perishable food
- Bottled water
- Basic tools and related materials
- Extra blankets and clothing to dress in layers
- Outerwear at the ready, including hats, gloves and scarves
- Rags or duct tape to seal air leaks

If you have a wood stove or fireplace, have plenty of wood on hand, and if you have a fuel-based heater, have extra fuel and the means to vent the fumes.

Know how you can get area weather updates, such as a weather radio, mobile notification system you can enroll in, mobile app, etc. Visit state and local websites for emergency outage plans in your area. Develop an emergency plan with your family so everyone knows what to do in an outage. Keep your mobile devices fully charged and ready to use when a storm is headed your way.

Additional tips for weathering a cold weather outage:

- Dress in several layers of warm clothing. Wear a hat to avoid the loss of heat from your head
- Reduce the amount of wasted heat during an outage by closing doors to rooms not being used and securing curtains and blinds to reduce heat loss from windows



- Never use an oven or charcoal grill to heat the home
- Reduce the risk of spoiling food during an outage by lowering the temperature of your refrigerator as low as possible, and avoid opening the refrigerator doors unless it becomes necessary. By doing so, you can keep your food cool for up to 24 hours
- Protect your sensitive electronics by unplugging devices such as televisions and computers. Use surge protectors to protect electronics when power comes back on
- Be alert to the signs of frostbite, which can include loss of feeling in the extremities, and hypothermia, such as shivering, memory loss, incoherence or drowsiness
- Use caution when going outside. Downed power lines could be hidden by snow or ice. If you see a downed power pole or line, stay far away and report it to your electric utility


A portable generator can provide power in the event of an outage. Have an electric cord long enough to keep the generator at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent to keep carbon monoxide out of

the home. Read your instruction manual before use and operate your generator in well-ventilated areas.

Never use a portable generator in the home or garage—and never plug it into a home wall outlet or connect it directly to the home's electrical system. Install battery-powered or battery back-up carbon monoxide detectors near floors on each level of the home.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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