



MESSAGE FROM THE COOPERATIVE

Safety drives us

Holmes-Wayne Electric prioritizes safety year-round



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

Working on power lines — whether overhead or underground — ranks among one of the most hazardous jobs in the utility sector. Lineworkers are routinely exposed to high-voltage equipment, extreme heights, and unpredictable weather conditions. The risks are significant, ranging from electrical shock to injuries caused by heavy machinery. Due to these hazards, lineworkers must undergo extensive training and follow strict safety protocols to mitigate risks and ensure both personal and public safety.

At Holmes-Wayne Electric, safety is more than a policy — it is a core value that drives every aspect of our operations. HWEC has fostered a strong culture of safety by consistently prioritizing the well-being of our employees and the communities that we serve. Achieving this mission requires continuous focus, dedication, and a proactive approach to safety every single day.

We work to create this culture by training employees on taking proactive approaches to safety. Each week, we hold meetings for crews to discuss safety concerns, hazard recognition, vehicle and equipment inspections, and other related topics. We review Ohio Electric Cooperatives' Weekly S.A.F.E. Talks, which provide information and prompt discussion about real-life incidents from around the country that caused property damage, major or minor injuries, near misses, or fatalities. Additionally, crews hold tailgate meetings before every job.

Our safety coordinator conducts Safety Meetings made up of a diverse group of employees from various departments who work in the office and out in the field. This committee focuses on seeing that safety concerns are identified and promptly acted upon to avoid potential harm or injury. The group is not only looking to improve the safety of all employees, but the safety of the public as well.

Other key safety initiatives that HWEC utilizes include:

- **Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP)** — A comprehensive system-wide inspection program completed by safety professionals and peer reviewers. This voluntary program gives co-ops feedback on the status of their current safety programs and ideas on how to improve them. This surprise inspection occurs every three years and the entire organization, including building, equipment, and staff, is inspected and questioned. This also includes an anonymous survey by staff to identify any unknown safety concerns.



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HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



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- **COLT Onsite Lineworker Development (COLD)** — The COLD program was created to bring COLT (Central Ohio Lineworker Training) training directly into the field, with the goal of reinforcing safety, communication, and continuous learning on the job. This program plays a key role in supporting both apprentices and journeymen through real-world coaching and collaborative dialogue. COLD jobsite evaluations are completed by COLT instructors and HVEC line supervisors. These unannounced visits occur approximately six times per year.
- **Commitment to Zero Contacts Initiative** — This initiative aims to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact, while also enhancing cooperative safety programs. When employees voluntarily agree to practice the Life-Saving Rules, they agree to follow critical guidelines, such as wearing personal protective equipment, applying personal ground, applying proper insulating materials, and properly using clearance materials. Employees also agree to “speak up” and not accept or walk by a shortcut to safe work, and slow down and perform effective job planning on all work assignments.
- **Pole-top/bucket truck and self-rescue training** — Pole-top rescue is an important safety procedure in the electrical industry and a vital skill for lineworkers to know. This exercise simulates a lineworker who has made contact with electricity or has had a medical issue and has been rendered unconscious. The lineman must climb the pole, secure a rope around a 180-pound dummy, and return safely to the ground for appropriate medical attention. Our lineworkers are trained to act quickly, calmly, and most importantly, not become the second victim. Every cooperative must conduct an annual pole-top rescue training exercise in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. In addition to pole-top rescues, lineworkers are also trained to perform bucket truck rescues and to rappel from an inoperable bucket in a self-rescue situation.
- **Federated Rural Electric Insurance Near-Miss Reporting & Crew Observations** — The Federated Near-Miss Program was designed to identify and communicate incidents and hazards experienced by cooperatives nationwide. The data collected is used to develop training programs designed to eliminate future accidents. These near-miss reports are reviewed by HVEC lineworkers during weekly safety discussions, providing valuable learning opportunities. Linemen have a chance to put these lessons into practice by discussing how similar situations could occur locally and identifying ways to prevent them. HVEC linemen are also subject to six unannounced crew observations by Federated observers throughout the year.

At the end of the day, our top priority is making sure all lineworkers return home safely to their families. We're equally committed to delivering safe, reliable electricity to our community. We'll do whatever it takes to make that happen — 24/7, 365 days a year.

HOLMES- WAYNE VETERANS HONOR TRIP PARADE

Twenty-three local veterans are returning home from an Honor Trip to Washington, D.C. Line the streets of Shreve from the elementary school to CVS Pharmacy with signs to celebrate. Following the parade, please join us in the parking lot beside CVS for a brief ceremony to honor this year's participants!

JAMES BROWN - *ARMY*
ANNIE CAMPBELL - *MARINES/NAVY*
JIM CANNON - *ARMY*
JIM DAUGHERTY - *ARMY*
MIKE EDINGTON - *MARINES*
DAN FLORY - *ARMY*
LINDA FRENETTE - *MARINES*
MIKE HUFFORD - *AIR FORCE*
BOB JORDON - *ARMY*
CHARLIE KIPER - *ARMY*
AL LENDRUM - *ARMY*
CHET MARTIN - *ARMY*

CHRIS PEKAREK - *ARMY*
STEVE SALISBURY - *ARMY*
JIM SHAW - *AIR FORCE*
MARCUS SHIELDS - *ARMY*
JOHN SMITH - *ARMY*
DAVE STILL - *MARINES*
JIM TEGTMEIER - *ARMY*
ROCKY TRUSSEL - *ARMY*
WOODY WILSON - *NAVY/ARMY*
JOHN WISE - *NAVY*
ED WOLFE - *ARMY*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
DOWNTOWN SHREVE - 6 P.M.



Saving energy during peak times benefits all

Conserving electricity during peak energy use times not only lowers your monthly bill — it can benefit our entire community.

“Peak times” refer to periods of the day when the demand for electricity is highest. Think early mornings when people are getting ready for work or school and evenings when families return home, cook dinner and unwind with electronics. When everyone uses energy at once, it adds pressure on the electric grid.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home whenever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work — one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources — hydropower, natural gas, coal, solar, wind and more. Some power plants can respond quickly to spikes in demand, while others are less flexible. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities, like Holmes-Wayne Electric, which then deliver it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it's more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can't keep up, the risk of outages increases. That's why using less energy during peak hours is more important than ever. It not only eases strain on the grid but also helps you save money.

So how can you “beat the peak”? Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Smart thermostats can automate this for you. Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes washers and dishwashers until later in the evening. Charging your electric vehicle overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control costs and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.

Here's what you can expect:

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JANE DOE
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Find hidden energy users at home

Out of sight, out of mind. It is easy to overlook the hidden energy users in our homes. Yet, every plugged-in device and ready-to-use appliance can lead to higher electric bills.

Let's see if we can find some hidden energy savings for you.

Your water heater could be using more energy than necessary. Storage water heaters heat water to a preset temperature. When hot water is used, cold water enters the tank, lowering the temperature, and the water is reheated to that preset level. If the water heater is set higher than needed, it wastes energy. Most water heaters are set to 140 degrees at the factory. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting the temperature to 120 degrees. This will save energy and reduce the risk of scalding. Do not set it lower than 120 degrees, to prevent bacteria development in the tank.

Exterior security lights, porch lights, and barn lights can use more energy than needed. If they are on every night, all year long, that adds up to 4,380 hours, or half the hours in a year. If those lights use outdated, inefficient technology, they waste energy. With that many hours, even a slight increase in efficiency can yield big energy savings. Switch to energy-efficient LED bulbs. If lights need to stay on, consider upgrading to motion sensor lights so you aren't drawing energy all night.

Pools and hot tubs can also be big energy users. Since you don't see the pumps or heaters by design, it's difficult to know when they are operating and consuming energy. Pumps filter water to keep it clean and safe for

swimming. ENERGY-STAR-certified pumps run at lower speeds and can be programmed to match your pool's filtering needs, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. They can pay for themselves in two years, are quieter, and can prolong the life of your pool's filtering system. Schedule your hot tub to a lower temperature when you're not using it to reduce energy use. If your electric utility offers time-of-use rates, consider scheduling accordingly.

Plug load is anything in your home that is plugged into an outlet. As we use more and more appliances and technology in our homes, plug load energy use increases. Find what is plugged in around your home. If you aren't using it, unplug it. For computer stations and entertainment centers, consider using smart power strips. These devices sense when energy is being used and turn peripheral devices on or off as needed.

Gaming consoles are another hidden energy user. Gamers often put them in rest mode when not in use. This allows them to complete updates and reduces start-up time for the next session. It also means they are still consuming energy even when not actively used. Powering off between gaming sessions can save energy. Ask the gamers in your life to power off. It may require a bit more time for updates, but every kilowatt-hour counts when it comes to saving energy.

It's easy to make a habit of powering down and unplugging once you identify everything drawing power in your home. For upgrades, reach out to your electric utility about available rebates to help cover costs.



Congratulations to Hayden Smith of Millersburg!

Hayden was awarded \$1,000 in Ohio Electric Cooperatives' 2025 Trade School Scholarship Competition. This scholarship was established to support electric cooperative members and their dependents in pursuing trade school certificates. Hayden looks forward to pursuing a career in electric line work.

Holmes-Wayne lineworkers assist sister co-op



One of the greatest strengths of electric cooperatives is the commitment to mutual aid. When a natural disaster or major outage occurs, co-ops from across the region mobilize crews, equipment, and resources to help each other restore power quickly and safely. This spirit of cooperation ensures that even in the toughest times, members receive reliable service. It's a powerful reminder that while each cooperative is locally owned, none of us stands alone.

Thank you to Class A Lineman Bowe Firebaugh and Apprentice Lineman Zach Snow for answering the call to assist the Harrison Rural Electrification Association in Clarksburg, West Virginia, after a recent windstorm. Your dedication makes the cooperative difference.





Steve James retires from co-op

After 20 years of dedicated service to Holmes-Wayne Electric, Steve James is beginning a well-deserved retirement. Throughout his career, Steve made a lasting impact — first as a Class A Lineman and most recently as our warehouse manager. No matter the role, he's been a valuable member of the HWEC team.

In his retirement, Steve looks forward to becoming more involved in community projects, prioritizing his health and wellness, and spending more time with family.

Congratulations, Steve! We wish you all the best in this exciting new chapter!



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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