

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO*

Electric safety isn't just in May

Every May, we celebrate Electrical Safety Month. It's a time when we place a spotlight on ways we keep you, our members, safe.

This year, we're focusing on how to keep safe after a storm rolls through. A special article dedicated to electric storm safety is located on the next page. Please

take a few minutes to review these tips and share them with your loved ones.

Also in order to stay safe after a major storm or natural disaster strikes, Holmes-Wayne Electric urges you to develop a family action plan.

Designate a place for everyone to meet after an event. Map out ways to evacuate your home. Create a laminated card with emergency contact names and numbers for each family member. Consider listing a relative or friend who lives far from your community as the point of contact — if your family gets separated, that person can let others know who is safe.

It's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for HWEC — working around electricity is a life-or-death situation every day for many of our employees. As a result, we work hard to instill a culture of safety that our staff can take home with them and live 24/7.

We also strive to raise safety awareness among Holmes-Wayne Electric members. Look for safety

tips in this publication, on our website and our billing notes.

We continue our commitment to providing free electric safety demos to local schools, community events, youth programs and emergency responders. In the first quarter of 2012, HWEC staff has provided 17 safety demonstrations to students, first responders, community leaders, and county and state road crews. We recognize the importance and understand the value of helping both young and old learn the dangers of electricity.

Additionally, Holmes-Wayne Electric wants to remind those members in the agricultural industry, that each year farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year. Taking a few moments to look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles can save a life.

Also as spring construction and tree planting projects begin, please remember to “know what's below.” Call before you dig. Call 811 so within 48 hours utilities can mark where underground service lines are located to keep you safe!

Safety is a company commitment year round for HWEC staff. We ask that you, the members, pledge to honor electrical safety month not just in May but in every month.

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Spring storm safety

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, high winds and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake — they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

“When you’re dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind,” says Safe Electricity’s Molly Hall. “But it’s the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area or enter a storm-damaged building.”

When outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. **Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized.** Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact HWEC’s toll-free 24 hour outage line at 866-674-1055.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.

As part of its “Teach Learn Care TLC” campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children are aware of these hazards as well.

For additional information, tips and safety videos, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity offers other precautions following storms:

- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or HWEC. **Never drive over a downed line,** as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.
- Be alert at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as four-way stops before proceeding with caution.
- **Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off.** Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to

do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call HWEC to shut off power at the meter.

- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. **Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.**
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned

before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to replace them. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

- If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.
- **If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed,** or connect appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines — what is known as “backfeed.” Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

Let *HWEC* help you with your budget

In today's harsh economy, we all are working with limited budgets. Many of us are cutting coupons, car pooling and reducing nonessential expenses.

Many HWEC members have taken advantage of the vast amount of suggestions and tools we provided to reduce your electric consumption and therefore reduce your bill.

To plan and budget your expenses easier, Holmes-Wayne Electric offers budget billing. **Budget billing allows you to manage your bill by averaging your annual consumption and avoid high bill surprises.** The average is based on the last 12 months' of consumption.

In extreme weather conditions, like winter and summer months, members consume more electricity to heat and cool their home and therefore their bill will be higher. Because of weather

and lifestyle practices your consumption can change dramatically, so every January and July, HWEC will review your consumption



history and adjust your set budget amount, if needed, therefore avoiding a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle.

The budget billing cycle

runs July to the following June. Any balance due is posted on your June bill.

Plus, if you choose, you can have the convenience of paying your bill on-line every month at our website www.hwecoop.com or select our automatic withdrawal payment program. This saves you the cost of postage every month.

If interested in the HWEC budget billing program, you may enroll at anytime as long as you have been a member of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance. Please contact the Cooperative toll-free at 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan for you.

Also be sure to check out all our money saving tips at our website www.hwecoop.com under energy advisor. Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electric consumption and bill.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

Memorial Day Holiday

Friendly reminder that HWEC offices will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of the memorial day holiday.

Operation Round Up Fact

Last year the HWEC Operation Round Up Foundation donated \$1,000 to both the Holmes County and Wayne County Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). This program uses donated funds to process deer during the fall hunting season. The venison is given to local agencies to feed those in need within the community. In Holmes County, FHFH processed 106 deer, which resulted in 5,500 pounds, or 22,000 servings, of venison. Wayne County FHFH processed 85 deer, which resulted in 4,851 pounds of ground venison that was provided to 11 different agencies.



2011 Allocation of capital credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to operating the cooperative to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain an operating margin in order to provide working capital, which is used to maintain the electric distribution system, to build and upgrade lines, and to provide service to new members. However, because we are a nonprofit cooperative, we return these margins to the members. These are called patronage capital credits.

Capital credits are returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by the member.

Capital credits are assigned, or allocated, to each member/owner for the prior year. Your member-elected board of trustees oversees the financial well being of the cooperative. As the financial status of the cooperative permits, the board will decide to retire capital credits. Capital credits are currently being retired on the indus-

try average of a 20-year cycle. When these capital credits are retired they are returned via a check to current and former members no longer on our lines. This is one reason why you always should keep your cooperative aware of your address if you move off of Holmes-Wayne Electric's lines — you may have money coming to you that you have forgotten about!

You also receive an allocation of capital credits from our generation company, Buckeye Power, which is also a cooperative. Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member/owner of Buckeye Power. Buckeye Power allocates capital credits to Holmes-Wayne Electric based on the same principles. We, in turn, allocate these capital credits to you. You are notified annually of your allocation of the capital credits assigned to your account for the prior year.

Please note on your May 2012 bill, the information regarding the "2011 Allocation" for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation cooperative, Buckeye Power. You will only have "2011 Allocation" on your bill if you were a member of the cooperative in 2011.

Keep us informed and safe

They look adorable and they are part of our families, however they can be dangerous. That's right, your family dog who plays with the kids can also become naturally very protective and aggressive.

During outages and maintenance of our system, HWEC line staff may be on or beside your personal property to restore or maintain your power. Please notify HWEC if you have a dog that is not tied up and becomes aggressive with visitors. This allows our staff to be aware of any dangers that may hurt them as they try to work efficiently and safely to provide reliable electric service to you.

You may contact the office toll-free 866-674-1055 to register your dog.

