

NEWS



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Manager's Message:

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At Tri-County EMC, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As General Manager, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Tri-County EMC hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

→ **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



→ **Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle--by having too many devices running on one circuit.

→ **Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.** Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

→ **Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a

risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Tri-County EMC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen. For most Tri-County EMC members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do Tri-County EMC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

Steps to Restoration When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

Supplies Ready We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Tri-County EMC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

Rights-of-Way Maintenance

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Tri-County EMC crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near right-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

Keep Up-to-Date If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through our app/website tcemc.com you can also call our outage reporting number at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Tri-County EMC you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

REMINDER! Tri-County EMC's Design our Bag Challenge Submissions Ends May 2!

CONTEST CRITERIA

- ➔ Open to students grades PreK-12.
- ➔ Students must live or attend a school in Tri-County EMC service area.
- ➔ Theme of design should be related to Tri-County EMC and must be your own original, unpublished work.
- ➔ Designs with the most likes at 12:00PM on May 13 will be chosen as the winner.
- ➔ Include your name, parent's name, age, grade, school, address and phone number with your submission.

CONTEST TIMELINE

April 4: Contest opened for submissions.

May 2: Submission deadline. After the closing date for submissions, on May 2 at 5 p.m., ten (10) finalists will be selected for the contest.

May 9: If your design is selected as a finalist, it will be posted on Tri-County EMC's Facebook page members/community will vote for the winning designs.

May 13: Deadline for voting on Facebook at 12 p.m.

Mail Artwork to: Tri-County EMC Design Bag Challenge
Tri-County EMC
PO BOX 130
Dudley, NC 28333

If you have questions, you may contact Deidra Grantham, manager of Marketing and Communications, at 919-735-2611 ext. 621 or Deidra.Grantham@tcemc.com.



TRI-COUNTY EMC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022



MAY 12

THURSDAY | 2022

**SOUTHERN WAYNE
COUNTRY CLUB**

262 Country Club Rd | Mount
Olive, NC 28365

BENEFITS

Tri-County EMC
Scholarship Foundation

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Registration
7:15AM & 12:15 PM
Shotgun Start
8AM & 1PM
Lunch 12:15 PM

FEES & SPONSORSHIP

\$100 Per Golfer
\$100 Hole Sponsor
\$500 Hole & Team Sponsor
Sponsorships \$100-\$2,500



Questions?

919-735-2611

mike.davis@tcemc.com

deidra.grantham@tcemc.com



Registration & Payment

Tri-County EMC Scholarship Tournament
PO BOX 130
Dudley, NC 28333

National Ag Day Photo Contest Winners Announced

National Ag Day, March 22, is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the extraordinary efforts of farmers and associations as related to the agriculture industry. On this day, we recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture. We appreciate all those who keep us fed no matter what!

Tri-County EMC hosted the second annual Agriculture Day Photo contest where members submitted photos that highlighted agriculture. Top photos were published to Tri-County EMC's Facebook page where members voted to select four winners.

Congratulations to the following winners: First place: Mary Michael Britt; Second place: Matthew Strickland; Third place: Lisa Cartwright; and Fourth place: Bradley J. Capps. Each winner received a cash prize.

Thank you to all members who participated in making the contest a success and helped spread awareness of Agriculture Day!



Mary Michael Britt



Matthew Strickland



Lisa Cartwright



Bradley J. Capps



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff

Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA
Manager, Finance & Administration

Robert B. Kornegay
Manager, Member Services

Deidra Grantham, Editor
Manager, Marketing and Communications

Tony Grantham, P. E.
Manager, Engineering & Operations

Tamah Hughes
Manager, Information Technology

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Jeff Henderson

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Randy McCullen

Amanda Murphy

Worth Overman

Employee Ready to Serve You



Dwayne Skinner

Dwayne Skinner is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. Dwayne has worked at Tri-County since Feb. 16, 2017, and is an Apprentice Lineman. Dwayne resides in Mount Olive.