

NEWS



Recognizing National Electrical Safety Month

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Prevent electric shock drowning

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Manager's Message: Safety Above All Else

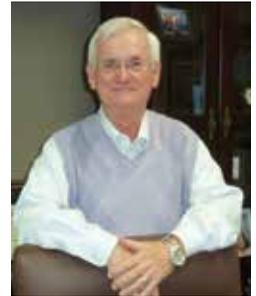
Safety is a universal word mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For, Tri-County EMC, it's the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, our cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, Tri-County EMC's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an essentially dangerous job, especially for our lineworkers. A number of years ago, Tri-County EMC implemented a safety committee focused on keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. The safety committee meets quarterly to discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective, and our lineworkers meet weekly to discuss safety-related subjects occurring in the industry. They monitor and track near-misses

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



of accidents in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

Just as important, we encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. Tri-County EMC conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. We also provide safety material on our website, social media sites and in our monthly newsletter.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss.

Contact Tri-County EMC for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact Mike Wood at 919-735-2611.

Metrics of the Month for March

Service Orders Generated: **790**

Service Orders Completed: **758**



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

While ensuring the safety of our members and employees is a top priority year-round, Tri-County EMC joins other electric cooperatives across the state and nation during the month of May in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month to promote awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious—and sometimes deadly—consequences of using electricity unsafely, and then we must take steps to prevent the misuse of electricity.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension

cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided through a few simple precautions.

Here are several basic tips to keep in mind when using electricity:

- **Unplug it.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off AND unplug all portable electric devices when you're finished using them.
- **Toss it.** Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying, and throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- **Cover it.** Use plug covers in outlets if you have young children. Teach them never to put their fingers in electrical outlets or

appliances, and keep cords and electrical devices away from them.

- **Avoid it.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don't drive over downed lines.

Tri-County EMC is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety, and we encourage you to make sure that you and your family know about the dangers of electricity and how to use it safely. We offer safety information and tips on our website at tcemc.com and you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Call Before You Dig

Whether you are installing a mailbox, building a deck or planting a tree or garden, those projects should start with a call to the one-call 811 center. The free, national 811 number connects you to a local one-call center. The center will then alert the appropriate underground facility owners so they can dispatch locators to mark the approximate location of their lines with paint or flags.

Unintentionally striking a line can result in inconvenient outages for entire neighborhoods, harm to yourself or your neighbors, and repair costs. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811.



Whether doing a project yourself or hiring a contractor, you need to call at least two business days before digging to give enough time for utility lines to be properly marked. When you call, a representative will ask for the location and description of your project. Once lines have been properly marked, you can roll up your sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

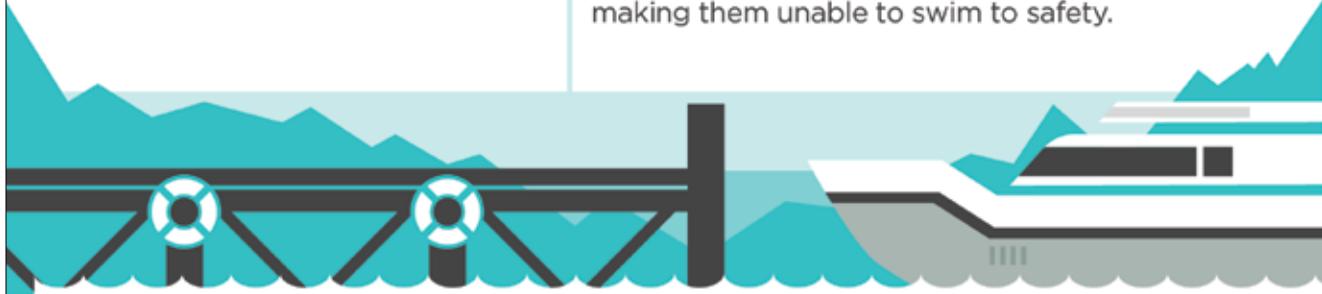


Let's Stay In Touch!

If your contact information has changed, don't forget to let us know. We need current information to keep you up to date on services, special programs, events and offerings that are important to you. If you have changed your phone number or email address, you can send the information to customer.service@tcemc.com or call 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Each year, 3,800 people die from drowning. Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers. There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger. The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL- Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For Sale

NOTICE: Effective, June 1, 2018, Tri-County EMC will no longer run ads in the cooperative exchange. Members can still submit information related to upcoming community events.

TUFFLINE DISC 10.5ft. \$1800. Call 919-738-4710.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Homemade Quilt, Dale Earnhardt Jacket Nascar 50th Anniversary (Sz. Large), Antique Log Roller, Prom/ Evening Gown (Sz. 6), Roll Top Desk, Antique Hand Held Tobacco Planter. Call 919-738-8175 or 919-738-2064 (2).

WANTED Coo-Coo Clock. Call 919-738-8175 or 919-738-2064 (2).

4 FT. AQUARIUM without lid. Asking \$25 OBO. Call 919-242-7117 (3).

DINING TABLE 72inch table with 6 chairs and large china cabinet. Call 919-580-9370 (3).

DeVILBISS GENERATOR 3,000 watt generator on wheels. Asking \$200. Call 252-292-0971 (3).



SAVE THE DATE
**Eighth Annual
 Tri-County EMC
 Scholarship Golf
 Tournament**

Thursday, May 31, 2018
8:00 AM & 1:00 PM SHOTGUN STARTS
 Call 919-735-2611
 for more information and registration



Tri-County EMC Employees:

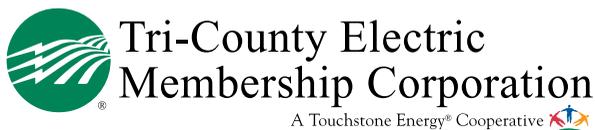
Ready To Serve

Ken Davis is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. Ken has worked with Tri-County since December 1, 1992, as the Manager of Finance and Accounting. Ken and his wife Lisa, live in Mount Olive.



Holiday Closing

Tri-County EMC will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018, in observance of Memorial Day. Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to tcemc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone. To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.



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

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

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.

J. Michael Davis
 General Manager

Management Staff
 Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.
 Manager of Finance & Accounting

Robert B. Kornegay
 Manager of Marketing & Member Services

Deidra Locklear,
 Editor
 Manager of Communications & Public Relations

Tony Grantham, P. E.
 Manager of Engineering

Michael Wood
 Manager of Operations

Josh Mattox
 Manager of Information Technology

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 President

Jennings Outlaw
 Vice President

William H. Farmer, Jr.
 Secretary

David Vinson
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Worth Overman
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