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To report an outage or electrical emergency, call 272-8821 or 235-6811 day or night.

Safety is your responsibility

Even though May is officially declared to be electrical safety month, June is also a good month to emphasize electrical safety. In fact, Holston EC would urge you to consider electrical safety a top priority in your home or workplace every month.

Over the years, we have seen the reality that accidental contact with electrical equipment costs so much more than dollars. These losses have a terrible and lasting impact on victims and on families, friends and co-workers. It's time to consider what our cooperative family — and we as individuals — can do to avoid this type of accident.

The first step in any electrical safety program is to recognize complacency as one of the biggest hazards we must overcome. But, we can combat this hazard if each of us will look for and correct electrical safety hazards.

Each year, incidents involving electrical equipment, such as extension cords, outlets and light bulbs, result in more than 41,000 residential fires that claim about 350 lives and cause more than 1,400 injuries nationwide. These fires also cause more than \$620 million in property damage annually.

Many electrical-related incidents are preventable. Simply removing electrical cords from under rugs could help prevent many house fires. If every household installed ground-fault circuit interrupters, deaths from electrocution in and around the home could be reduced by half.

Consumers can help protect themselves from electrical hazards by taking a few minutes to check their homes for unsafe conditions.

Make sure cords are in good condition. A frayed or cracked cord could

cause a shock or fire. Replace old and damaged cords with new ones having the certification label of an independent testing laboratory on the cord.

Check the ratings label on extension cords and appliances since an overloaded extension cord can cause a fire. Change the cord to a higher rated one or unplug some appliances if necessary. Remember that extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis and are not intended as permanent household wiring.

To reduce the risk of electric shock, make sure that GFCI protection is provided for outlets at

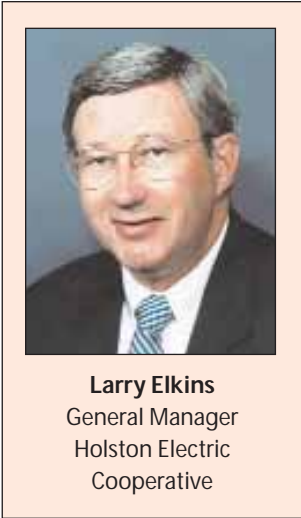
kitchen counters, in bathrooms and at outdoor receptacles. Test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

Check the wattage of all bulbs in light fixtures and lamps to make sure they are correct. Replace bulbs that have a higher wattage than recommended to prevent overheating that could lead to a fire.

Check to see that fuses are the correct size for the circuit. Replacing a correct size fuse with a larger size can present a serious fire hazard. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

Check to see if outlets and switches are unusually warm or hot to the touch. If so, an unsafe wiring condition could exist. Do not use the outlet or switch and have a qualified electrician check the wiring as soon as possible.

Make electrical safety a priority for your family. These steps are fairly simple. However, they can protect each of us from experiencing an electrical shock or other catastrophic experience.



Larry Elkins
General Manager
Holston Electric
Cooperative



Trash left or thrown out by campers, fishermen, boaters and other lake users is an embarrassing eyesore. Volunteers brought in truckloads of garbage they had picked up around the lakeshore.

Concerned citizens work to clean up Cherokee Lake

It's sad that "before" and "after" shots taken on the day of Cherokee Lake POWER Cleanup are so drastically different. But the volunteers who picked up trash and garbage in and around Cherokee Lake access sites in Hawkins County made an amazing improvement in the scenery.

The spring POWER Cleanup, sponsored by TVA and three area power distributors, Appalachian Electric Cooperative, Holston Electric Cooperative and Morristown Utility System, April 17 was a joint effort to remove the trash from the shoreline and enhance the natural beauty and enjoyment of the lakeway area. The event was also part of the Great American Cleanup sponsored in April each year by the Keep America Beautiful and Keep Tennessee Beautiful organizations.

Groups that participated in the cleanup included Boy Scout Troop 84 from Surgoinsville, Cub Scout Pack 143 from Rogersville, the Hasson Street Christian Church Youth Group from Rogersville, Lakemont Homeowners Association, Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce, Cherokee High School Interact Club, Rogersville Kiwanis Club, TVA John Sevier Plant and Holston Electric Cooperative.

Other individuals also volunteered, and the 87 total participants removed 2.34 tons of glass bottles, wire, metal bedsprings, paper and plastic food containers and rubber tires from the Hawkins County portion of Cherokee Lake. Each participant received gloves, bags, a T-shirt, a treat bag and all the fresh air and sunshine they could take in.

This great effort would not have been possible without the assistance of other concerned businesses in the area. The trash dumpster that was brought in and later emptied was donated by BFI. The Port-o-lets (for the convenience and use of the volunteers) were donated by Price Septic Service of Mooresburg. Larry Vickers Auto Group of Rogersville donated the use of a six-wheel all-terrain vehicle that could climb the shorelines and power across the water to retrieve the bags of garbage and take them to the dumpster. WRGS radio announcer Mike Reeves broadcast from the staging site throughout the morning, promoting the event and conducting live interviews of the volunteers.

We all need to share the responsibility of keeping Cherokee Lake clean and uncluttered. It would be great if the photos of the next lake cleanup don't have such a contrast in the "before" and "after" photos!



Left: Boy Scout Troop 84 takes a trailer load of garbage they picked up to the dumpster. Right: WRGS announcer Mike Reeves chats on the air with members of the Cherokee High School Interact Club.



Left: Members of the Hasson Street Christian Church Youth Group were smiling before and after they picked up trash! Right: Holston EC employee David Stanton returns to the dumpster with a truckload of trash.



Left: The BFI dumpster fills up as load after load of trash is brought in by volunteers. Right: Lakemont resident Patsy Shorter teaches her grandchildren to take care of the environment by participating in the POWER cleanup.

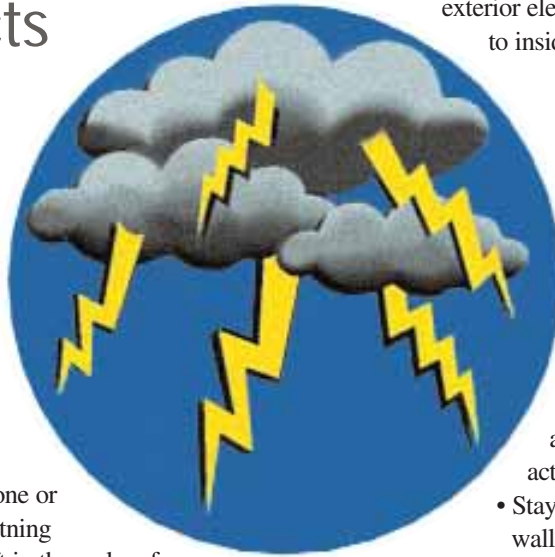
Lightning Facts

In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year. Lightning can be fascinating to watch, but it is also extremely dangerous. During the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 73 people per year in the United States, based on documented cases. This is more than the average of 68 deaths per year caused by tornadoes and the average of 16 deaths per year caused by hurricanes. However, because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time, and because lightning does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of tornadoes or hurricanes, lightning generally receives much less attention than the more destructive weather-related killers. While documented lightning injuries in the United States average about 300 per year, undocumented injuries caused by lightning are likely much higher.

Source: National Weather Service

Lightning Safety Tips

- Plan in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.
- If outdoors, avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid all metal objects, including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or van with the windows completely shut. If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should:
 - Crouch down. Put feet together and place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.
 - Avoid proximity to other people (minimum of 15 feet).
 - If indoors, avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off headsets. Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools and TV sets. Lightning may strike



exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

Source: National Lightning Safety Institute

Tornado Alert!

Tornadoes are unpredictable and can strike at any time of the year. Usually when they touch down, they leave a path of destruction. When a tornado threatens, your immediate action can save your life.

- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Protect your head.
- Tornado watches are not tornado warnings. The purpose of a tornado watch is to alert people to the possibility of a tornado.
- Tornado warnings are issued when a tornado has actually been sighted or detected by radar.
- When a tornado is present, keep posted by radio or television and be prepared to act immediately.
- In schools, nursing homes, hospitals, factories and shopping centers, go to pre-designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest floor are usually best.
- In homes, the basement offers the greatest safety. Seek shelter under sturdy furniture if possible. In homes without basements, take cover in the central part of the house or the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture.
- In open country, move away from the tornado's path at right angles. If there is no time to escape, lie flat in the nearest ditch or ravine.
 - Manufactured homes are particularly vulnerable to overturning during strong winds and should be evacuated when strong winds are forecast. Damage can be minimized by securing the home with cables anchored in concrete footings. If there is not shelter nearby, leave the manufactured home and take cover on low, protected ground.
 - Vehicles. Leave them and go to a substantial structure. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands shielding your head.
- During or after a storm of this nature, be especially careful to avoid downed electric lines.





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