

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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### Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

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## Co-op Concerns

*News from your community*

### Stay serious about safety

*Whether it is for work or for personal reasons, I often need to travel by airplane. At the start of each flight, the attendants give a safety demonstration. They show you what to do if the oxygen masks deploy, and they show you how to use a seatbelt.*

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a funny routine about airline safety demonstrations. "They show you how to use a seatbelt," he jokes, "in case you haven't been in a car since 1965."

The first time I traveled by plane, I listened to every word the flight attendant spoke as she gave the demonstration.

Her words and instructions seemed very important. Today, however, the demonstration just blends into the other noises in the busy cabin, and I move on to other activities like checking my email or reading a magazine.

I have heard it before, so it hardly seems important.

Like the airlines, safety is serious business at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

Our lineworkers attend mandatory safety meetings each month, and complacency is something they're cautioned about frequently. When you do the same things day after day, it is tempting to take shortcuts, but second chances are rare for lineworkers who accidentally come in contact with power lines. The consequences of mistakes are incredibly high.

We remind our employees to be "everyday safe" — to give each job the same care and attention to detail as they did on their first days at the co-op. We stress the importance of carefully

following practices and procedures and watching one another's backs.

In addition to our employees, we also work to educate the general public about

the dangers of being complacent around electricity. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted each year

as a result of electrical fires, accidents and shocks in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

May is National Electrical Safety Month — a time to educate yourself and your family about the dangers of electricity. Like our employees, we encourage you to be "everyday safe." You can find great tips to do that online at [everydaysafe.org](http://everydaysafe.org).

I suspect our messages about electrical safety probably garner the same level of attention as travelers pay to flight attendants. It is just more noise that blends into the background of our already-busy lives.

Even though I seldom pay attention to airline safety demonstrations, I think I would know what to do if there were ever an emergency on a plane. I have heard the same thing enough that it has sunk in, and that is why we continue to talk about safety. It may not be very exciting, but it is incredibly important.

Now, sit back, relax and enjoy the rest of your day.



**By Chris A. Davis**  
General Manager,  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership  
Corporation

*"Like our employees, we encourage you to be 'everyday safe.'"*

**Join us at your local CEMC office on Thursday, May 16, for free hot dogs, chips, cookies, soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill.**

**Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each location. We hope to see you there!**

Only members in attendance can register for the electric grill giveaway.  
One entry per household, please.

**CEMC**  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership Corporation  
Your Tennessee Energy Co-Operative  
The power of human connections

## Sign up for bank draft for a chance to win an electric bill credit

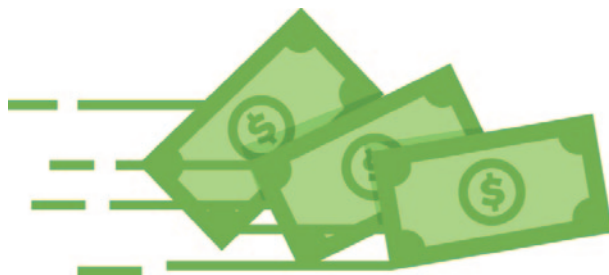
All members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are enrolled in bank draft prior to Friday, May 31, will be entered into a drawing to win one of five **\$50 electric bill credits**. As an added bonus, members who sign up for bank draft in the month of **May** will be entered into a second drawing with a chance to win a **\$250 electric bill credit**.

Bank draft is a convenient way to make electric bill payments automatically. With bank draft, your bill is securely drafted from your checking or savings account each month on your due date, eliminating late fees. You

will continue to receive your electric bill each month — in your mailbox or your inbox — and we'll take care of the rest. All you have to do is adjust your checkbook.

To sign up for bank draft, give us a call at 1-800-987-2362 or stop by your local CEMC office. You will be required to sign an authorization form and provide a voided check.

Please note. This contest is open to members enrolled in bank draft payments only. It does not apply to members who are enrolled in Auto Pay recurring credit/debit card payments.



# Coopertown preps for Seventh Annual Barrel Festival

Join the town of Coopertown as it hosts its Seventh Annual Barrel Festival on Saturday, June 1, in the Historic District on Old Coopertown Road.

The event kicks off with the Barrel Fest 5-Miler at 7 a.m. The mostly shaded route covers the scenic backroads of Coopertown as well as a portion of the original Trail of Tears route. Exclusive festival shirts will be available to Barrel Fest 5-Miler participants. Registration and the race will take place at Coopertown City Hall at 2525 Burgess Gower Road. Runners can also register online at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). Prizes will be awarded, and each race finisher will receive a unique wooden finisher medal.

After the 5-mile run/walk, take the free shuttle to the Barrel Festival just across Highway 49 on Old Coopertown Road. Parking is free as is entry into the festival, which runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This annual event returns with plenty of activities and fun for the whole family.

The Barrel Festival Classic Car Show, sponsored by R&R Stor-All, will offer a variety of perks, including prime parking spaces, on-site concessions and unique trophies and prizes — Barrel Festival style. Cars will line the north entrance of the festival on Highway 49 near Coopertown Elementary School. Awards for Best in Show, People's Choice and Barrel Festival Favorite will be given out at 2 p.m. Arrive between 8 and 10 a.m. at the front paved parking lot of the school, pay the \$20 registration fee and then sit back and wait for the judging to begin!

Take a stroll down Old Coopertown Road toward the Chambliss store to find Speyside coopers demonstrating the art of barrel-making by hand,

using original tools of the trade. Barrels will be available for purchase.

The Tractor Showcase and Cooper Contest will be among other attractions at the festival.

The Cooper Contest will award prizes in three categories:

Woodworking, Non-Woodworking and Youth. Get more entry details at [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com).

Our popular Kid Zone is sponsored by Honeysuckle Hill Farm this year. Jeff Alsup and his gang aren't telling us all their secrets, but we have been told they're bringing in a jump pad, cornhole games and their famous cow and pumpkin trains.

More carnival-type games will be available closer to the South Battle Creek

Road entrance.

When you arrive at the festival, you will be greeted by four massive hogsheads from Springfield's own Hail & Cotton as well as a variety of wooden barrels throughout the festival grounds. Get out your cameras and phones because the photo ops are endless! Contact Coopertown City Hall if you wish to sponsor a barrel. Festival T-shirts, hats and visors will be for sale at both entrances to the festival. There will be shade and seating, free shuttles, free parking and plenty of free fun for all ages at the Coopertown Barrel Festival.

Thanks to many community sponsors and partners, the Barrel Festival continues to grow to benefit the community within Coopertown, educate and unite its residents, and honor its rich heritage in cooperage. Event information can be found at [Facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival](https://www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival), [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com), [www.coopertowntn.org](http://www.coopertowntn.org), [Facebook.com/barrelfest5miler](https://www.facebook.com/barrelfest5miler), [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) or by calling Coopertown City Hall at 615-382-4470, ext. 214.



# Safety starts with you

## Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

By Derrill Holly

Electricity plays many roles in our lives— from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation reminds you that now is a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember: Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them is designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

### Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features to sense abnormal current flows and break the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

### Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow arcing of electrical current. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

### Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they



can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

### Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from CEMC, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember that extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended application. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and CEMC is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. Keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

*Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*

# Electric co-ops are engines of economic development

By Dan Riedinger

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is deeply committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity to its members and empowering the communities we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

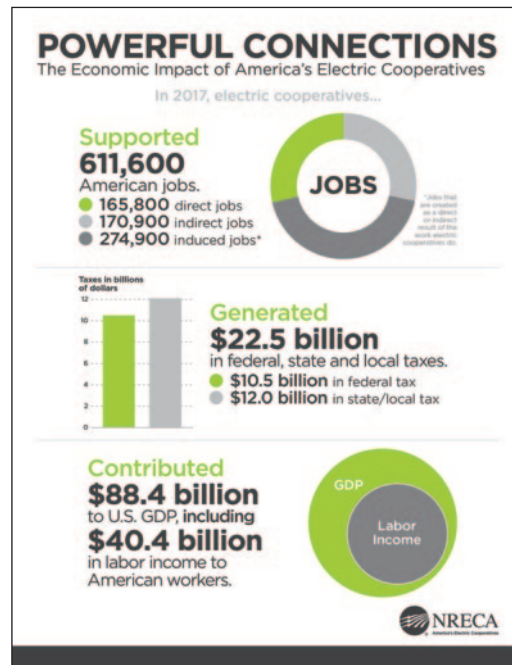
But have you ever stopped to wonder what kind of an impact the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops have across the United States?

A new report on this very topic shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. gross domestic product from 2013 to 2017 — that's \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers.

The study, "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives," was conducted by FTI Consulting for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses know well — electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century, and that remains true today. Roughly one in eight residents nationwide are served by an



electric co-op, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric co-ops contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income and \$112 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including operational expenditures, capital

investments and maintenance.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57 generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate the economic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. The model also calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all this effort is a first-of-its-kind study that reveals electric cooperatives to be economic anchors all across rural America. And it demonstrates on a macroeconomic scale one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community.

*Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*

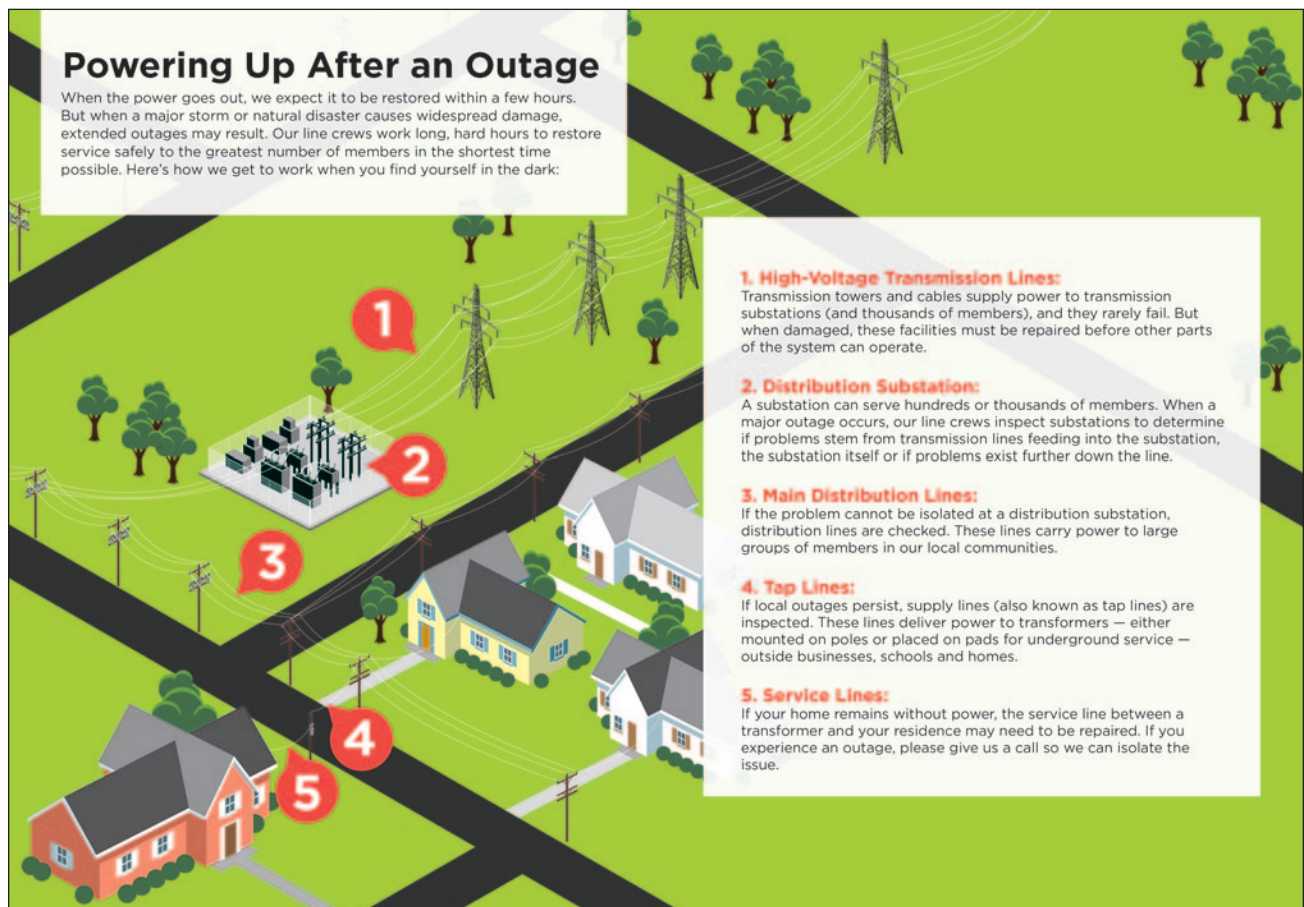
# Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA weather radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends

staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and securely close outside doors. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or otherwise use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces in and outside the vehicle that conduct electricity.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



# Is your A/C ready for warm weather?

After a long, chilly winter, we're all ready for warm summer weather. Is your air conditioning system as ready as you are? There's nothing worse than an A/C malfunction on the hottest day of the year. A springtime once-over can prevent that from happening.

Plus, air conditioning is your biggest energy expense during the summer. Keep summer energy bills in check by making time for a few presummer rituals:

- Schedule a professional tuneup for your air conditioner before the hottest days arrive so yours won't break down during the busiest time for repairs. Don't know who to call? Visit [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org) for a list of members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's Quality Contractor Network.
- If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, buy one with the highest SEER (Seasonal Energy

Efficiency Ratio) rating you can afford. These appliances are the most efficient.

- Don't buy too big. An air conditioner should "fit" the size of your home. An HVAC professional can advise you about proper sizing.
- Turn on your ceiling fans. They increase the circulation of cool air and might allow you to move the thermostat up a notch.
- Close your window blinds during the hottest part of the day.
- Add insulation to your attic and caulk windows. Preventing cool air from leaking out of your house can reduce cooling costs by up to 20 percent.

Visit [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org) for a list of members of CEMC's Quality Contractor Network.

## 2019 CEMC Annual Meeting is Sept. 21

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is preparing for its 2019 annual meeting, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 21, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, and

the business session will begin at 10 a.m. Join us for a complimentary breakfast, browse through the selection of door prizes, visit our information booths and be sure to check out the Youth Corner. Watch for additional information in future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine*.



CHALK WALK  
Art Festival  
May 11th  
Downtown Commons  
[www.ArtLinkClarksville.com](http://www.ArtLinkClarksville.com)  
SPONSORED BY: FM BANK, EMERALD CITY CBD, NO EGRETS

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

