

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road
P.O. Box 75
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
FAX 814/766-3319
Website:
www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Leroy D. Walls, President**
- Harry Johnson, Vice President**
- John R. Dively, Secretary**
- Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary**
- Dean Brant, Treasurer**
- David Bequeath**
- Timothy Newman**
- Ellis Sollenberger**

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

**814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177**

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Annual meeting notice



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

MARK your calendars now for the 71st annual meeting of the consumer-members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. This year's meeting will be held at the Northern Bedford County High School, Loysburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Attend this year's meeting and join others in:

- ▶ A family-style turkey dinner from 4:30 until 7 p.m.
 - ▶ "Dively-Shawver Gospel Bluegrass" from 5:30 until 6:45 p.m.
 - ▶ Business meeting from 7 until 8 p.m.
 - ▶ Reports given by officers and general manager/CEO.
 - ▶ Election of two directors to serve the cooperative for three-year terms.
 - ▶ Transaction of business properly brought before the meeting.
- Official Annual Meeting Notices and

Registration Cards will be mailed out sometime in late May. Only consumer-members are eligible to vote at the annual meeting (consumer-members are those who have paid a \$5 membership fee).

The Northern Bedford County High School Band students and parents will serve the meal. All members of the household are encouraged to attend. Two free adult and two free children's meal tickets for those living in the same household will be provided for each membership present. In addition, one free guest ticket for someone living outside the household will be allowed. Additional tickets are \$3.50 for ages 10 and under or \$7 for ages 11 and above. Reservations must be made by June 5.

The first 100 members to arrive and register will receive a special gift. If you have paid a membership fee and have not received an Official Annual Meeting Notice and Reservation Card in the mail by late May, please call our office. ☎

Honoring our veterans

We would like honor our veterans who have given their lives to protect us. They have sacrificed their lives so we can enjoy the freedoms we have. For Memorial Day, we would like to decorate a tree honoring these heroes, but we need your help.



Please send the names to Brawna Sell at P.O. Box 75, New Enterprise, PA 16664; email her at bsell@newenterpriserec.com; or call 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177, extension 224.

Electrical safety tips



IT IS ALL ABOUT safety. Electricity is a wonderful convenience that makes our lives so much easier. Without electricity, the flip of the light switch doesn't do any good. Without electricity, your morning may not go as good as usual without your eye-opening cup of coffee. Without electricity, there won't be water for a nice hot shower. Living without electricity is hard to imagine for most people. But with all the convenience electricity brings, it also brings many dangers. Electricity isn't anything to take lightly. It can cause bodily injury or even death if not handled properly.

Insulators help keep you safe

Electricity does not travel easily through certain materials such as special rubber, plastic and glass. These materials are known as insulators. They are used to keep electricity from leaving the wires it travels on.

Glass, plastic or ceramic insulators located high on the utility poles keep electricity from traveling down the pole to the ground. If an insulator breaks, or an electric wire becomes disconnected from the insulator, the wire can fall to the ground. This causes the area around the fallen wire to become energized. The ground is loaded with electricity.

Appliance cords are surrounded by rubber or plastic insulation to keep the electricity in the wires. Should the insulation become broken or worn, electric shock can happen. This isn't only appliance cords, but extension cords as well. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis. Broken, worn or overloaded outlets can cause cord insulation to become overheated and melt, causing a shock and fire hazard.

A downed energized power line or a broken, worn or overheated cord can cause injuries to you or even death.



What to do in a vehicle accident

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that involve downed power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your vehicle hits a power pole and the line falls on your vehicle, New Enterprise REC urges you to stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. Getting out of the vehicle, with few exceptions, is the wrong thing to do until the line has been de-energized. You are almost always better to stay in the vehicle, especially if the line is in contact with your vehicle. If the electric line is still energized and you step out of your vehicle, your body becomes the path for electricity. Electrocutation is the tragic result. It is best to wait until the utility crews arrive to make sure the power is disconnected.

The only exception of getting out of your vehicle would be if there is fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline. If there is an immediate danger, use the proper action to exit your vehicle. Jump, don't step, from the vehicle. Do the following: jump with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage lessens the farther out it is from the source. Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for electricity.

The power line doesn't have to be on your vehicle to be energized. If the wire is on the ground beside your vehicle, it can energize the ground.

If you come across an accident involving electric wires, most people's first reaction would be to jump out and help the victim. But remember, the ground around the vehicle could be energized and you could become another victim. Call for help and wait for trained assistance to arrive.

Water and electricity DO NOT mix!

Did you know that water is an excellent conductor of electricity? Since the human body is composed of primarily water, you, too, are an excellent conductor of electricity.

It is important to be careful around

water. Whether it is a lake, an ocean, a bathtub or a sink, it is important to take extra care when using electricity.

Outdoor water safety:

Boating, fishing and swimming are popular hobbies. While enjoying these water activities, follow these guidelines to ensure your safety:

- ▶ Play safely and work safely around docks and piers. Do not have power tools or appliances near or around the docks.
- ▶ Do not run any wiring across waterways that boats might run into.
- ▶ Watch for electric lines near docks. Don't swing booms or poles near them.
- ▶ Don't get your fishing line caught in power lines around docks and marinas.
- ▶ Never touch electric wires or switches when you are wet.
- ▶ Be careful not to use power tools near water or while standing on wet ground



Indoor water safety:

Water inside the home is just as dangerous as water outside the home. Here is a checklist on how to be safe around water in your sinks, showers and bathtubs inside your homes:

- ▶ Don't touch appliances such as radios, televisions, hairdryers and curling irons with wet hands, and keep them away from showers, sinks and bathtubs.
- ▶ Make sure outlets are protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI). This device is used to protect you from electrical shock.
- ▶ Check small electrical appliances such as hair dryers, curling irons and razors. Keep the number of electrical appliances in your bathroom to a minimum. ⚡



Watch out for electrical hazards on the farm

Persons who live on a farm know that not only is it hard work, but it can be dangerous, too. 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 clears power lines from year to year.

THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP KEEP EVERYONE ON A FARM SAFE:

- ▶ Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- ▶ Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front-end loaders. Do this every year as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.
- ▶ Store large equipment properly, especially if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- ▶ Be extra careful when working around trees and brush as they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- ▶ Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines. ⚡

KIDZCORNER

The meaning behind Memorial Day

Memorial Day is more than a three-day weekend for barbecues, blockbusters and the beach. Although spring doesn't end until June 20, many people consider Memorial Day, which falls on May 25 this year, to be the real start of summer. During this weekend, families heat up the grill, catch the biggest movies and enjoy "the great outdoors." But Memorial Day has the word "memorial" in it for a reason.

The holiday dates back to May 30, 1868, when Union Gen. John A. Logan declared the day an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. Twenty years later, the name was changed to Memorial Day. On May 11, 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the president issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. President Richard M. Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May each year. It is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars.

Remembering those who served

It is customary to mark Memorial Day by visiting graveyards and war monuments. One popular Memorial Day tradition is for the U.S. president or vice president to give a speech and lay a wreath on soldiers' graves in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Most towns have local Memorial Day celebrations. Here are some ways you can honor the men and women who serve our country:

- ▶▶ Put flags or flowers on the graves of men and women who served in wars.
- ▶▶ Fly the U.S. flag at half-staff until noon.
- ▶▶ Visit monuments dedicated to servicemen and women.
- ▶▶ Participate in a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.
- ▶▶ March in a parade.

