

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

National Co-op Month



October is special to the electric cooperative network, and not because of fall craft festivals, where we can purchase our share of wooden pumpkins, ghosts, scarecrows, kettle corn, and pumpkin-spice everything.

October is National Co-op Month, when we celebrate you — the consumer-members of this electric cooperative. We are thankful to have you as a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC).

More than 800 electric cooperatives provide service to more than 42 million people and 21 million farms, businesses, homes, and schools in 48 states. Electric cooperatives service 56% of the nation's landmass. New Enterprise REC is part of the electric cooperative network. While all electric cooperatives are independent business entities, we all operate under a similar business model.

New Enterprise REC was incorporated in 1938 and serves nearly 3,900 electric meters in Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon counties. Our employees maintain nearly 400 miles of electric lines and rights of way to bring safe, reliable power to you.

Over the past few years, we have been making operations improvements to enhance service and reliability. We have been upgrading poles and conductors out on the line to help prevent weather-related outages. Thanks to the help of landowners, township leaders and friends of the cooperative, our right-of-way program has improved over the years to create a robust foundation to protect lines from falling trees.

This year, we are proud to support local youth through Youth Tour sponsorships. Two high school juniors, both members of New Enterprise REC, joined hundreds of other electric-cooperative-sponsored youth in Washington, D.C. They spent a week in June meeting with legislators and government leaders, touring monuments and embracing American history. This also marked the first year New Enterprise REC sent a chaperone to join representatives from our fellow Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives and help with the program.

The cooperative also offers the Family-In-Need Program and partners with many other local organizations to help our community's most vulnerable keep up with their energy bills.

The cooperative is continuously looking for ways to operate more efficiently, while still providing the friendly, reliable service you've come to expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op; we were built by you, the members we serve.

Enjoy the local fall festivals, crafts, kettle corn, and pumpkin spice, and always feel free to call or stop by the office and let us know how we are doing. Happy fall. 🍂

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Make Safety a Priority When Farming Near Power Lines

WE DON'T HAVE TO REMIND those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job and because of long days and tiring work, here are some reminders about electrical dangers on the farm.

Overhead power lines

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your tractor or vehicle. Stay put and call 911 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after



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you make a clean exit) is to shuffle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground.

Once you are out, never try to re-enter the tractor or vehicle.

Determine proper clearance

Contact your cooperative to measure power line heights — **DO NOT** do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest point of the equipment that will be transported. Keep in mind power lines can change height due to wear, age and even weather conditions. Please contact the cooperative with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

Call us before moving or adding a grain bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. These rules are in place to help keep farmers safe by decreasing the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with power lines. If you are planning to build a new grain bin or remodel an area that already has one, contact New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative's outside operations and engineering department at 814-766-3221. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed away from a power line.

Always dig safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so you know for sure. Keep in mind: Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines.



THINK SAFETY FIRST WHEN USING A GENERATOR

Keep this information with your portable generator or emergency kit.

FOLLOW THESE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS:

- Use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into a generator.
- Never plug a generator into your home's electrical system.
- Place the generator at least 20 feet away from windows or doors.
- This 20-foot rule also applies to a porch or garage (or any part of the home).
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area.
- If it is raining, place the generator under a stand-alone, canopy-like structure.
- Always direct exhaust away from the home or any other structure a person could enter.
- Do not use a generator in a garage (even if the garage door is up) or carport.
- Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- Keep your generator well-maintained and in proper working order.

Ensure that working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are located on every level of your home, and test them monthly. CO poisoning can happen quickly, and individuals exposed to the odorless, invisible gas may become unconscious before realizing they are experiencing symptoms such as nausea, dizziness or weakness. Or, they might not associate a symptom with CO exposure before becoming unconscious.

Learn more at:



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

We all share responsibility for our organization's online safety and security, and YOU are our first line of defense.



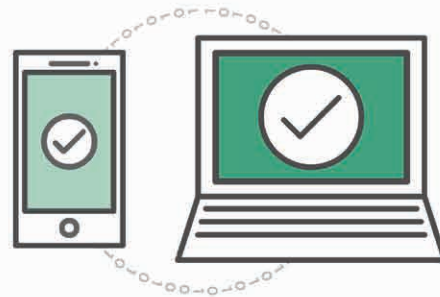
Think Before You Click

- Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
- Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.



Lockdown Your Log-in

- Create long and unique passwords. Use familiar phrases or song lyrics you'll remember.
- When possible, use two-factor authentication as a second layer of defense.
- Change passwords regularly, and do not share them.

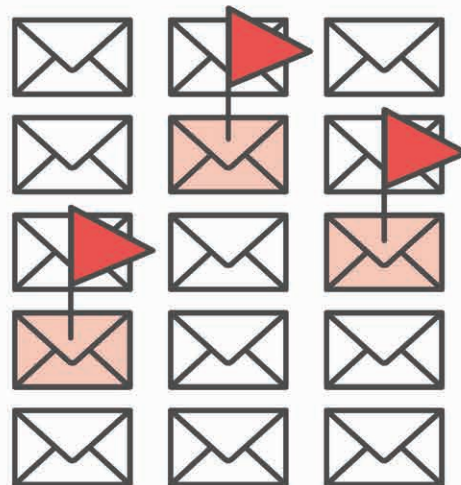


Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks

- Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

1. The email is unexpected.
2. There is a sense of urgency conveyed.
3. There is an offer that seems too good to be true.
4. There are typos and misspellings.



Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene?
Visit www.staysafeonline.org

Use standby generators with care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch to prevent backfeeding. Backfeeding puts power back onto utility lines, which can electrocute lineworkers trying to restore power.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org).

General safety

- ▶ Check and maintain equipment, especially electric cables and hydraulic hoses that have cracks or show other signs of wear.
- ▶ Always have someone nearby when entering grain bins or other high-risk areas.
- ▶ Check all buildings and grounds for fire hazards and hazardous materials.
- ▶ Assess how chemicals are stored on your farm and make sure children and animals can't access them.
- ▶ Make a list of chemicals on the property for firefighters in case a fire breaks out on your farm.
- ▶ Establish a safety boundary around gas and fuel tanks.
- ▶ Always wear eye and ear protection, gloves, and face masks and respirators, when appropriate.
- ▶ Shield all power take-off machinery and keep others away.
- ▶ Outfit vehicles with fire extinguishers.
- ▶ Never exit a vehicle without placing it in park or engaging the emergency brake.
- ▶ Discuss safety concerns with children and explain safe operating procedures. You can never start these discussions too soon, and children watch what you do. 📺

Teen Driver Safety Week

EIGHT PEOPLE DIE IN DISTRACTION-related crashes on American roads each day, according to the National Safety Council. National Teen Driver Safety Week is observed the third week of October, which is a good time to talk to the teens in your life about safety on the open road, including the hazards of distracted driving and downed power lines.

Distracted driving

There were 3,522 people killed by distracted driving in 2021, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Texting while driving is the most alarming distraction behind the wheel, since sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for approximately five seconds. Other distractions include sifting through music, checking social media, using navigation, eating, talking on the phone, taking selfies, drinking a beverage or using an app.

Distracted driving is preventable. Teens and adults alike can follow these five easy tips to help them concentrate on driving:

1. That text can wait. Do not text while driving.
2. Make responding less tempting

by blocking texts while behind the wheel.

3. Do not eat while you drive.
4. Rely on playlists instead of searching for music.
5. Set up navigation before you leave or have a passenger navigate.

Downed power lines

While no one wants to think about teens being in car accidents, it does happen. Severe storms can damage utility equipment, such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Have discussions with teens about what to do if they encounter a downed power line or damaged equipment.

Here is how the ground or objects can become energized without any visual indication:

- ▶ The energy spreads like ripples on a pond.
- ▶ If you walk or run from one voltage "ripple" to another, your feet experience a difference in voltage (this is called step potential).
- ▶ If you touch something at one voltage and step on or touch something at a different voltage, your hands (or your hand and foot) experience a difference in



voltage (called touch potential).

- ▶ Your body becomes electricity's path to ground when an electrical current enters your body at one point and exits at another.

What to do

If you are in a car accident, stay inside your vehicle, call 911 and report the damaged electric utility equipment. If you are a bystander, do not approach the scene to help. Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything.

Downed lines or other damaged utility equipment can look lifeless and harmless and still be live. Downed lines and other damaged electrical apparatuses do not have to be sparking, moving, sizzling or burning to be energized.

Learn other electrical safety tips at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org). 📺