

Help keep an accident from ruining this Halloween by considering these safety tips:

FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Stay on sidewalks wherever possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road – facing traffic. Obey all traffic signals.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods. Only approach houses that are lit. Stay away from animals you don't know.
- Select costumes that are made of flame-retardant materials and that have reflective markings or tape. Carry only flexible knives, swords, or other props. Carry a flashlight. Make sure costumes don't drag the ground and that shoes fit properly.
- Make-up provides better visibility than masks. But if you select a mask, make sure you can easily breathe and see. Don't wear your mask when walking from house to house.



FOR PARENTS

- Young trick-or-treaters should be accompanied by an adult. Older children should know how to reach you and you should know where they are going.
- Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring their candy home to be inspected before eating any of it. Look at candy wrappers carefully and throw away anything that looks suspect.
- Make sure your yard is clear of ladders, hoses, tools, or anything that could trip young ones. Use battery powered lights for pumpkins and other decorations instead of candles.
- Pets are easily frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from stress and cars and to make sure they won't bite a trick-or-treater.
- Consider giving out healthy snacks such as mini boxes of raisins, packaged fruit rolls, or single-serve packages of low-fat popcorn or cereal.

Bring Outdoor Lights Inside During a Power Outage



At VEC we try very hard to limit the number of power outages for our customer-members and we work very hard to make any power outages as brief as possible. But if the last two years have taught us anything, it is that sometimes Mother Nature can trump our best efforts and power outages happen.

We across this very helpful tip to help make those power outages a little less inconvenient, so we are going to pass it along.

Use your outdoor solar lights inside the house at night when the electricity goes off.

You can put them in jars and bottles and they give off plenty of light into your own home one night to test it for yourself.

There is no need to scramble around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, and flashlights. Just look outside and see your solar lights shining brightly all around. You can also put solar light pipes into plastic drink bottles and they make the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could image. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, put in a few of the colorful flat marbles they put in aquariums and vases. You can also use sand, aquarium gravel, or whatever you have available.

Solar lights are a great light solution for power outages.

Scammers Target Electric Customers

A new scam is sweeping the nation by claiming that President Obama will pay your utility bills through a new federal program. Customers have reported the scam, and several other energy companies issued warnings to their customers about it.

How the Scam Works:

Consumers have been contacted in person and through fliers, social media and text messages with claims that President Obama is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills. To receive the money, scammers claim they need the consumers' social security and bank routing numbers. In return, customers are given a phony bank routing number that will supposedly pay their utility bills. In reality, there is no money, and customers believe they have paid their bills when in fact they have not.

Tips to Avoid Falling for this Scam:

- Never provide your social security number, credit card number or banking routing information to anyone requesting it over the phone or at your home unless you initiated this contact and feel confident with whom you are speaking.
- If you receive a call claiming to be your utility company and feel pressured for immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call the customer service number on your VEC bill.
- Never allow anyone into your home to check electrical wiring, natural gas pipes or appliances unless you have scheduled an appointment or have reported a utility problem. Also, ask utility employees for proper identification.
- Always think safety first. Do not give in to high pressure tactics over the phone for information or in person to get into your home.



"We urge our members to guard their personal accounting and banking information and never share this information with family, friends or strangers," said Patty Hurley, VEC vice president of Marketing and Economic Development.

VEC Customers Outsmart Scammers

VEC's Spring City office received a call from a couple that received a call from a man claiming to be calling as a representative for VEC. He advised them they had been overcharged for the last several years and we were issuing them a refund of \$200 and a 40% discount on their electric bill. He proceeded to ask them for their bank account number and he would direct deposit their money.

The customers tried verifying some info from the caller and he said it was not important to know who and where he was. They then asked him for a phone number to call him back once they verified with VEC that this was true and he hung up on them.

Cooperatives are a Different Kind of Business

October of Cooperative Month in the United States. This designation helps cooperatives like Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) build awareness and educate the public about the cooperative way of doing business.

Each year, during the month of October, the nation's 48,000 cooperatives celebrate Cooperative Month by working to educate people about the qualities that make cooperatives unique. Cooperatives are based on the principle of shared ownership by those who share a common need for a product or service. VEC is one of the largest cooperatives – in terms of square miles served – in the nation and we are still owned by the customers we serve.

Those 55 people who met together in 1935 to form the cooperative set some ground rules that we steadfastly follow to this day. They determined that the cooperative was to be a not-for-profit business and in the 77 years that we've been in business, we've never made a penny of profit. That's one reason our customers enjoy the benefit of some of the lowest electricity rates available in the nation. Since we are owned by our customers – and not a group of stockholders who expect to see their share of the profits – VEC can offer lower rates than investor-owned utilities.

Our founders also pronounced that in addition to providing electricity in the safest and most economical manner possible, the cooperative was to serve the community.

In keeping with that dictate VEC works to recruit new businesses and industries into our communities; we provide college scholarships to our bright, energetic, and community-minded young people; we support programs to develop young leaders, and we collect donations to distribute to local non-profit community service organizations.

We also provide several programs to help our members save energy and save money. Not too many companies will make the effort we make to help customers use less of their product.

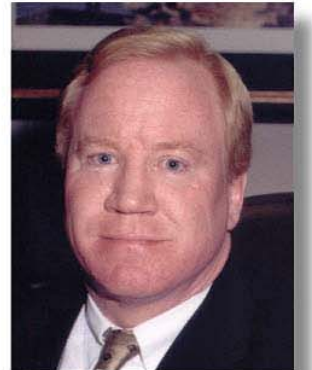
Another way VEC and other cooperatives are different types of business is the way they are governed, VEC is managed by a 12-member Board of Directors comprised just like you and elected by our customers.

During Cooperative Month we want to remind you that we are a customer-owned utility that is managed and governed by citizens who live in the areas we serve. As a cooperative, quality service is our bottom line – we work for you.

Being a member of a cooperative is different than just being the customer of an electric company. We work hard to make those differences as beneficial to our members as possible. And we hope our customers appreciate the difference.



Rody Blevins is President/CEO of Volunteer Energy Cooperative



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President/CEO
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VEC Customers Share Neighbors Helping Neighbors



The VEC Customers Share program funded \$33,700 in community service grants in July. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.2 million



VEC Customer Share Board Member Jim Taylor presents a grant check to Mike Archambault of New Beginnings Youth Ranch.

in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.

Organizations receiving grants in July

Monterey Lions Club	\$3,000	Manna From Heaven Food Pantry, Crossville	\$500
York Elementary School, Jamestown	\$1,300	Pickett County High School Basketball	
Cherokee Removal Park, Blythe Ferry	\$1,250	Booster Club	\$500
Benton Fall Festival Booster Club	\$1,250	Pickett County High School Baseball	
McMinn County Education Foundation -		Booster Club	\$500
Imagination Library	\$1,250	Crossville Lions Club Charities	\$500
Cub Scout Pack 3239, Spring City	\$1,200	Pickett County Health Council	\$500
Maple Grove Women's Outreach, Harrison	\$1,100	Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville	\$500
Southeast Tennessee RC & D Council,		Mrs. Booher's Kindergarten Reading Club,	
Athens	\$1,000	Byrdstown	\$500
Luminary Outreach Team, Ten Mile	\$1,000	Lake Tansi Exchange Club, Crossville	\$500
American Legion Post 68, Athens	\$1,000	Plateau Longbeards, Crossville	\$500
New Beginnings Youth Ranch, Clarkrange	\$1,000	Friends of the Pickett County Library	\$500
Meigs County Festival for Life	\$1,000	Brown Middle School PTO, Harrison	\$450
Roane County Imagination Library	\$1,000	The International Association of	
Cleveland Emergency Shelter	\$1,000	Community Service Chaplains, Cleveland	\$350
Polk County American Cancer Society	\$800	Plateau Chapter 297 of the Korean War	
Senior Lighthouse Center, Spring City	\$750	Veterans Association, Crossville	\$300
Ocoee Middle School PTO/Wrestling Team	\$750	Cumberland Trinity Tabernacle, Crossville	\$250
Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$750	Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Crossville	\$250
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$750	Bradley/Cleveland Public Education	
Tyner High School Soccer Boosters	\$600	Foundation	\$250
J.O.Y. School, Cleveland	\$500	Positive Behavior Support Team, Crossville	\$250
Creative Compassion, Crossville	\$500	Fantastic Quilters, Fairfield Glade	\$250
Clarkrange Volunteer Fire Department	\$500	Cumberland County Community Chorus	\$250
Oak Grove Mission Team, Ocoee	\$500	Coordinated Charities of Athens	\$250
Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival Committee,		Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the	
Byrdstown	\$500	Cumberlands	\$200
Cumberland Adult Reading Council, Crossville	\$500	Bradley County Thunder	\$200
McMinn County Retired Teachers Association	\$500	American Legion Post 137, Jamestown	\$200

VEC Co-Sponsors 2012 4-H Electric Camp

Three hundred rising seventh and eighth graders from across the state of Tennessee explored the world of energy, electricity and the basic sciences at the 2012 4-H Electric Camp June 26-29.

VEC offered 34 scholarships – two for each county in the VEC service area – to campers.

While visiting the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus, 4-H members discovered the world of electricity by participating in various camp learning centers that provide "hands-on" activities where 4-H'ers "learn by doing,"

This year's learning centers were:

Electronic Battery Tester – Campers built their own electronics in this hands-on learning activity by soldering resistors, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and integrated circuit (IC) chips to printed circuit boards to make working battery testers that measure the amount of charge used batteries still hold.

Electric Motors – Motors convert electricity into useful work. Students learned the different parts of an electric motor and how electromagnetism makes a motor turn and then built their own electric motors.

Energy Conservation – We use electricity to light our homes, cook our food, play music, operate televisions and enjoy many other conveniences. But as we use more electricity, electric bill rise. In this activity, campers learned how conserving electricity not only helps lower electric bills but also helps protect our environment.

Green Energy Generation – Green energy will play an important role in the supply of energy in the future. When green energy sources are used, the demand for fossil fuels is reduced. This learning center covered the different types of green energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and biofuels and how these energy sources are produced.

Electric Vehicles – Campers learned about batteries, direct current and how it is used to power electric vehicles. Then they put their new knowledge to work in assembling miniature electric vehicles. Campers also got a chance to check out a Chevrolet Volt electric car.

Electrical Safety – Electric power does a tremendous amount of work for us, but because it is such a powerful force, we must be careful around it. This learning center taught 4-H'ers how to play it safe around high-voltage power lines.

4-H Electric Camp is a joint venture of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its member cooperatives such as VEC, UT Extension, Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association, municipal power systems, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

VEC's Supervisor of Safety and Construction Greg Hutsell volunteered to help teach campers about electrical safety and VEC Member Services Specialist Kristy Kelly taught campers in the electric vehicles learning center.

"This is a terrific event" Kelly said. "It's wonderful to see local students getting a hands-on education about electricity and I'm glad to be a part of VEC's support for 4-H Electric Camp."



Students at this year's 4-H Electric Camp got the opportunity to check out the latest in electric and hybrid automotive technology.



Thousands are Taking Advantage of Free Energy Efficiency Program

The In-Home Energy Evaluation program, offered by Volunteer Energy Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority, continues its steady growth in 2012 as residents look for ways to make their homes more energy efficient and lower their power bills.

The number of residential energy efficiency inspections VEC has conducted is 1,922 free In-Home Energy Evaluations through July and 1,442 VEC customers received rebates on energy-efficiency improvements they made to their homes. Across the TVA service area 40,000 inspections have been conducted.

Launched in March 2009, the In-Home Energy Evaluation program provides expert evaluations, recommendations and up to \$500 reimbursement for home energy improvements. Across the TVA service area, the program has saved about 45 gigawatt-hours since its start, enough to power more than 3,000 Tennessee Valley homes for a year. About 19 gigawatt-hours have been saved in fiscal year 2012.

About 75% percent of VEC customers who receive free home evaluations make one or more suggested energy-efficiency improvements to their homes and receive a rebate. Across the entire TVA service area about two-thirds of residents in the program make home energy improvements after the evaluation. The national average is about 50 percent.

TVA's EnergyRight Solutions suite of energy efficiency programs includes a broad portfolio of new and innovative initiatives for homes, business and industry. TVA achieved a 559 gigawatt-hour reduction in 2011 – a 270 percent increase over 2010. Combined energy savings of 765 gigawatt-hours in 2010 and 2011 equals enough energy to power almost 50,000 households for an entire year.

"Most companies spend money advertising to encourage people to buy more of the product. As a customer-owned cooperative, we do things differently," said Paige Finnell who coordinates VEC's In-Home Energy Evaluation program. "We go the extra mile to help our customers use less electricity. The In-Home Energy Evaluation program is a great deal for our member-customers. The evaluations are free and there is no obligation to make any of the suggested improvements. But if a member-customer decides to make some of the recommended improvements he or she receives a rebate on the costs and gets a lower electric bill year-round."

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective September 1, 2012

2.623¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org