

106 Power Poles Replaced	141.27 Miles ROW Trimmed	118,880 Pole Line Miles	118,880 AMI Meters Read	15,851 Contact Center Calls	49,264 Automated Calls Rec.
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Tips for
Maintaining
an Efficient
HVAC System

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer

months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

Schedule periodic annual inspections. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tuneups during the spring and fall when contractors aren't as busy.

Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's life span.

FIREWORKS
SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

Have a Safe & Happy
4th of July!

Discussing Tennessee
Cooperative Issues
with DC Lawmakers

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) board members, Melvin Holmes VP of Operations and I traveled to Washington, D.C., April 29 - 30, to meet with members of the Tennessee congressional delegation. We met with Senators Alexander and Blackburn as well as several representatives including Representative Scott Desjarlais.

We encouraged them to support broadband and other investments in rural infrastructure as well as other legislation that would reduce



Meeting with Rep. Desjarlais and many cooperative leaders from across southeast Tennessee.

costs for electric co-ops and co-op consumers. Lawmakers were also invited to visit VEC to meet employees, attend our annual meeting or tour our offices.

Our visit was made during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual legislative conference. More than 50 other electric co-op leaders from Tennessee traveled to Washington, D.C.

Visits like this provide us with a valuable opportunity to educate lawmakers about co-ops and our communities. We have a responsibility to our consumers to be sure law- and policymakers fully understand how their decisions impact the people back home.



Diane Black and Lamar Alexander discussing current legislation affecting coops.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

Your Change Changes Things

The VECustomers Share program funded \$29,000 in community service grants in May. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over \$6.6 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working 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.



VECustomers Share Board Member Dana Burgner presented a grant check this past May to Karen Cross, Director of the NewLife Community Kitchen in Bradley County. NewLife Community Kitchen will use their grant to feed the homeless and low income a hot lunch five days per week. Also, they provide food bags to the homeless and street people with no means of cooking or refrigeration.

Organizations receiving grants in May

Crab Orchard Elementary PTO	\$1,900	Midway Youth Outreach Program	\$650
Pickett County Football Booster	\$1,850	Midway High School Baseball Boosters	\$650
Happy Hearts Seniors	\$1,500	Meigs County FFA Chapter	\$600
McDonald Community Center	\$1,150	Midway Quarterback Club	\$550
Monterey Anglers Booster Club	\$1,100	Martin Elementary FCCLA	\$550
Gig City Girls	\$1,050	FBLA - Cumberland Co. HS	\$550
Grandview Community Center	\$1,000	Cumberland County High School FCCLA	\$550
Athens Civitan Club	\$1,000	Polk County High School Student Council	\$500
Fairview Youth Group	\$900	Polk County High School Cross Country	\$500
Central High School Ruriteen Club	\$900	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500
8th Grade College Readiness/ Access - Meigs Middle	\$900	Meigs County 4-H	\$500
Maple Grove Community Seniors	\$800	Honey Creek Volunteer Fire Department	\$500
Family Promise of Bradley County	\$800	Fentress County Literacy Council	\$500
Cleveland Ballers	\$800	Champ Ferguson/Standing Stone Camp #2014 SCV	\$500
Meigs High School Cheer Boosters	\$750	Youth Group Salem Baptist Church	\$400
Fentress County Senior Citizen's Center	\$750	HOSA - Healthcare Future Leaders of America - Stone Memorial HS	\$300
Cumberland G.A.P. Mission	\$750	Monterey Community Youth Group	\$250
The Art Guild at Fairfield Glade	\$700	Mended Hearts Chapter 127	\$250
Crossville Christian School Student Garden	\$700	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$250
Monterey Masonic Lodge #751	\$650		



Stay Back and Stay Safe

By Anne Prince

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

For Volunteer
Energy Cooperative
safety is the number
one priority.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

Test your electrical safety knowledge by taking the quiz below!
Use the answer key if you need help.

- Smoke alarms in your home should be tested _____.
 - once a week
 - twice a year
 - once a month
- Overloading electrical outlets and power strips can create an electrical fire hazard.
 - True
 - False
- What's the most dangerous place to use electricity?
 - Outdoors
 - Near other electrical equipment
 - Near water
- It's safe to run an electrical cord under a rug or carpet as long as the cord is not damaged.
 - True
 - False
- Which is safest to play near?
 - Power lines
 - Pad-mounted transformers
 - Neither A or B – both are dangerous

Answer Key: 1. C 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. C



Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting
Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective **June 1, 2019**

1.860¢

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

*Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity provider and employer.*

UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER TODAY

Starting in March, when you update your phone number(s) you will become eligible for a prize drawing.

You can update your information by calling your service center, using SmartHub, or by logging into your account at vec.org. You can also use the form on the back of your bill.

