



# POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

APRIL 2014

## Test your Knowledge:

Take this electric safety quiz and see how well you score.  
It's fun, important and could save your life.

1. Electricity travels at the rate of:
  - a. 120 miles per hour.
  - b. 5,280 feet per second.
  - c. 186,300 miles per second.
2. Where is the safest place to be during a lightning storm?
  - a. In a car.
  - b. In the middle of a field.
  - c. In a house.
  - d. Lying face down on the ground.
3. The average number of people who die in the United States each year from being struck by lightning is about how many?
  - a. 10.
  - b. 100.
  - c. 1,000.
  - d. 100,000.
4. If you see a downed power line or low-hanging power line, you should:
  - a. Move it out of the way and call your local electric cooperative.
  - b. Stay clear and call the electric cooperative or 911, immediately.
  - c. Don't worry about it because your cooperative already knows about it.
5. True or False: Power lines coming from the outdoor pole transformer to your house are covered and OK to touch.
6. How much voltage is needed to hurt or kill people?
  - a. 120 volts.
  - b. 240 volts.
  - c. More than 240 volts.
  - d. Any voltage.
7. If a household fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips, the first thing you should do is:
  - a. Call your electric cooperative.
  - b. Determine what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip.
  - c. Open your breaker box or fuse box.
8. What uses more electricity?
  - a. Leaving a light on all day.
  - b. Playing Xbox (video games) for two hours.
9. Which takes more electricity?
  - a. Washing clothes on the warm or hot setting.
  - b. Drying clothes on a warm or hot setting in the dryer.
10. True or False: You should unplug small appliances when not in use.

Answers on Reverse

## April 18 - National Lineman Appreciation Day



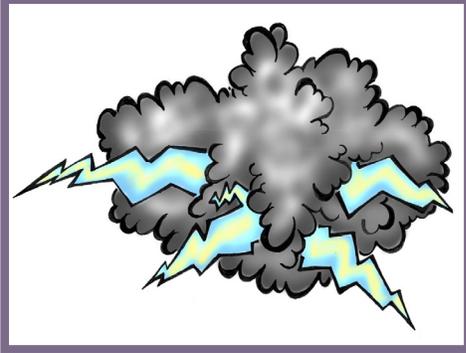
Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative would like to recognize our line workers who work tirelessly, in all kinds of weather conditions, to ensure that our members have lights. In order to keep our linemen safe, we need your help.

- Don't nail or bolt birdhouses, basketball goals or satellite dishes on electrical poles.
- Don't landscape around poles with flower boxes, birdhouses, feeders or birdbaths.
- Don't hang signs on electrical poles.

A nail or staple used to attach posters, or any of the objects listed above, can tear equipment that protects the lineman from electric shock or can hang on their equipment and cause them to fall.

Show your appreciation for those who bring you reliable electric service by providing them a safe working environment.

## How did you do?



1. C. Electricity travels at the speed of light, 186,300 miles per second.
2. C. Inside your home and away from any electrical appliances or metal objects.
3. B. About 100 people die each year in the United States from lightning strikes.
4. B. If you see a downed or low-hanging power line, stay clear, at least 30 feet, and call 911 or your electric cooperative immediately!!
5. **False:** Power lines coming from the transformer to your house are covered but they're NOT OK to touch. Always stay away from power lines.
6. D. Any voltage can injure or kill people.
7. B. Determine what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip before replacing or resetting. If you can't find out, call an electrician.
8. B. Playing Xbox uses more electricity than leaving a light on all day.
9. A. Washing clothes in hot water uses more electricity mainly because the water heater is also working to heat the water.
10. **True.** Even if they're not being used, appliances left plugged in draw a small amount of electric current. These are known as "energy vampires."

It is very important that you know how to be safe around electricity. Just like there's no such thing as being too safe – there is no such thing as too much information about electrical safety.



## Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

### Start with your air conditioner.

Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.
- Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.



### Check out your roof.

See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak; even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair loose or missing shingles and leaks, and clear gutters.

### Make your electric cooperative a resource.

**Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, April 21, in Observance of Easter.**

Our energy advisor, Brian Morris can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit would help find more savings.

~ B. Denise Hawkins