



POWER FACTS

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

APRIL 2015

National Lineman Appreciation Day ~ April 13, 2015

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

- 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 linemen from electric shock or can hang on their equipment and cause them to fall.

We wake before the sun, pour ourselves a steaming cup of coffee, kiss our families goodbye and head out the door to begin our work day. This is the everyday routine for most employed adults, right? Well yes, but for some, such as a lineman, this is not always the case. On a normal day, these men and women get up and follow the same routine as you and I; but on many days, these lineworkers are out all day and night, sometimes working in treacherous weather conditions in order to keep the power on to our members.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's (MEC) lineworkers form a solid team with one job in mind: to deliver safe, reliable electricity to our members, every day. A winter storm, a tornado, or even a vehicle accident causing a broken utility pole along with many other scenarios, can all put a major 'kink' in the normal workday of a lineman. However, our lineworkers are up to the challenge and they take pride in their duty to serve our membership. Aside from their dedication to the members of MEC, their commitment to their co-workers is just as remarkable. For lineworkers, safety must be their top priority. A single slip-up can cost these men a limb, or even a life. When you put your life in the hands of a co-worker every day, you become more than colleagues, you become family.

We often take electricity – and the men and women who work so hard to provide this luxury – for granted. April 13 is National Lineman Appreciation Day, and we want to thank these highly skilled individuals for their commitment to ensuring that our members receive all of the comforts that electricity provides. Today, please take a moment to thank an MEC lineworker and let them know that their dedication is appreciated.

Wishing you a **SAFE** Spring!



When heading toward the field or construction site this spring, be cautious of overhead power lines. Operating large equipment, such as cultivators or excavators, is one of the most often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working in the great outdoors.

Always maintain a 10-foot clearance when working around utility lines. Be cautious when operating newer tractors that have tall antennas extending from the cab that could potentially make contact with an overhead power line. Also, avoid raising the arms on cultivators, planters, dump trucks, boom trucks or cranes near power lines. Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If your equipment does come in contact with a power line, do not exit the cab. Call Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative or 911 immediately! If the power line is energized and you step onto the ground, your body becomes the path to the ground causing an electrical shock and possible death.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of a fire danger, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the piece of equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together at all times.



Looking for a quick and easy weekend breakfast for the whole family? Try this delicious, make-in-advance Sausage and Egg Casserole submitted by MEC employee, Kristine Martin.

Sausage and Egg Casserole

Ingredients

- 1-½ lbs. sausage (hot or mild)
- 6-8 slices of bread (edges removed)
- 8 oz. shredded cheese
- 9 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 ½ cups half and half

Cook and drain sausage. Grease a 9x13 glass baking dish. Line the bottom of the baking dish with bread. Pour sausage over bread. Cover with cheese. Mix eggs, salt, and half and half in a bowl. Pour mixture over layered ingredients (do not mix). Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

Cook at 350 degrees for 45 minutes – or until bottom is golden.

Always allow a cold glass or ceramic baking dish to reach room temperature before placing in the oven. The temperature difference may cause the glass dish to crack or break.



Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on
Monday, April 6,
in Observance of Easter.

