PowerLines
September 2025

Safety is always a top priority

Eastern Illini prioritizes programs, policies, and procedures regarding the safety of our employees, our members, and the communities we serve. We emphasize safety through a multi-faceted approach involving employee training, member education, and adherence to safety standards. We focus on fostering a culture of safety within our company.

Employee Safety:
We invest in regular safety training for all our employees, including linemen and office personnel. We participate in safety training offered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). We invite speakers to our employee meetings who educate and engage employees on safety-related topics.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We participate in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), which focuses on improving safety performance by optimizing cross-organizational safety practices through on-stie evaluations, self-assessments, and safety improvement plans. We are also committed to ZERO CONTACTS, which is an initiative that reinforces the right behaviors and procedures and reduces the chance of future serious injuries and fatalities among co-op employees. As a co-op, we have a corporate goal of a score of zero for Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART). This OSHA safety metric helps management identify and modify safety issues in the workplace.

We also have a safety committee who meets regularly to discuss safety issues and best practices.

Member Safety:
Whenever and wherever needed, we encourage and support public safety campaigns that educate members about electrical hazards and safe practices around power lines. We provide members with safety tips through social media, newsletters, our website, and community events. We educate members on how to respond to power outages and downed power lines. We use resources including Safe Electricity and CALL JULIE.

Community Safety:
We recently participated in the Farm Progress Show and our linemen gave demonstrations educating visitors on downed lines and electricity. Throughout our service territory, we offer electric safety presentations to elementary schools with an emphasis on staying safe around electricity.

As members, we are certain you join us in prioritizing the safety of all the employees who serve you, as they are your friends, neighbors, and family! But you should also know that a safe co-op is a more cost-effective cooperative. Expenses related to workplace accidents can be huge.

Keeping our employees safe is the right thing to do, and it is also key to fulfilling our mission to provide safe and reliable energy solutions and exceptional service to our members.

Cooperatively,

Bradley W. Smith

In this issue:

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT:

It is crucial to keep your contact information updated to ensure you receive important notifications, timely billing information, and access to member services. We rely on accurate contact information to communicate effectively during outages.

smart hub®

- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

SmartHub is available online or through an application on your cell phone. Sign up today!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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BE PREPARED FOR A STORM AND POTENTIAL POWER OUTAGE

What foods are best for an emergency kit?

MORE THAN A FEW CANS OF SOUP...

Which Foods Are In Your Emergency Kit?

THE FOOD IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT SHOULD:

- Have a long storage life.
- Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration.
- Include nourishment for infants and toddlers if applicable.
- Meet special dietary needs.
- Include the needs of pets if you have them.

WATER AND PREP ITEMS

Include in your supplies:

- One gallon of water per person per day to last at least three days.
- A manual can opener and cooking supplies.
- Indoor warming methods, such as chafing dishes and fondue pots.

EMERGENCY STASH

Plan for several days' worth of food for each person in your household. Edible items could include:

- Canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- Grains, such as crackers and multigrain cereals.
- Protein or fruit bars.
- Dried fruit.
- Peanut butter.
- Canned soups, meats and beans.
- Powdered milk.
- Dried meat/jerky.
- Oatmeal or breakfast bars.

Just imagine, the sky turns dark, the wind howls, and suddenly, your home is plunged into darkness. A power outage has hit, and it's unclear when the lights will turn back on. But instead of panic, you feel prepared and at peace. Why? Because you have your power outage emergency kit with enough food, water, and essential supplies for you and your family to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.

September is a good time to prepare your emergency food kit with non-perishable items that don't require refrigeration or cooking.Besides food, you will want to have these important additions close at hand.

- Manual can opener: Essential for accessing canned goods.
- Bottled water: At least one gallon per person per day for a minimum of three days, plus extra for washing and cooking.
- First aid kit: For minor injuries or illnesses. Access to prescription medications is also vital.
- Flashlight and batteries: Essential for visibility during the outage.
- Radio (battery-powered or hand-crank): To stay informed about the outage and emergency information.
- Cash: ATMs may not be working during a power outage.
- A reusable phone charger: A one-time phone charger or a solar panel charger that can be used repeatedly is a great idea.
- Pet supplies
- Batteries

Emergencies have a terrible habit of popping up uninvited and at the worst possible times. But here's the good news: you can outsmart the unexpected with a bit of preparation. So, take the time to assemble your food emergency kit, familiarize yourself with how to report outages, and remember, the best defense against a disaster is a good plan of action. By being prepared, you are securing your safety and comfort.

ELECTRICITY IS ESSENTIAL DURING HARVEST

Go above and beyond for a safe harvest

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, everyone on the farm must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to coming in contact with power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial. During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farmers and their families can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360-DEGREE AWARENESS

Awareness of your surroundings — around, above and below — and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farmers, and those that help them, keep a close eye on the equipment's location and be ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well.

The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact us at 800-824-5102. Our electric experts are ready to work with you to keep everyone safe.

SMART HARVEST SAFETY TIPS

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Exercise caution near power lines. Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.
- Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that nonmetallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- Hire electricians to handle drying equipment and electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Electricity is essential during harvest, but it can be dangerous. Annually in the United States, 62 farmers and those who help them are electrocuted, including youth. In many of those cases, contact between machinery and an overhead power line or utility poll is the cause. Electrical safety is key to prevent fires, injuries, electrocution, and potential death.

Planting and harvest season can bring long hours, weather constraints, tight schedules, seasonal workers and increased stress. Because of that, we want to remind farmers that it only takes a split second for someone to come into contact with electricity. Before taking to the fields, be aware of overhead power lines and keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

ATTENTION TEACHERS GRADES 3 -5

FALL 2025 ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

Teaching about the dangers of electricity and how to stay safe around electricity is a top priority at Eastern Illini. We offer 30 minute safety presentations to students in grades 3 -5. We will work with your schedule and curriculum. We can set up back to back presentations for an entire grade. It's a free service, so call us today to schedule your electric safety demonstration!

Complete the request form on the Eastern Illini website: https://www.eiec.org/school-presentations

Contact: Andy Schaumburg
Phone: 217-379-0410
Email: andy.schaumburg@eiec.coop

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A STADIUM USES ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER 4,000 HOUSEHOLDS

Powering up the game of football

As the football season kicks off, fans across the country are gearing up for the excitement of the games. From the roar of the crowd in stadiums to the buzzing atmosphere of tailgates and the comfort of watching from home, football brings people together. But have you ever thought about the energy it takes to power this beloved sport? Whether you're planning to watch the game in a stadium, on your television or on your phone or tablet, it's almost certain that your device will be plugged in and/or charged by electricity.

1892 was the first year a football game was played at night, thanks to an electric light display by General Electric. That year, the Mansfield University of Pennsylvania football team competed against the Wyoming Seminary football team in Mansfield, PA. American football was a relatively new sport at the time, so a night football game was considered an attraction that would show off both the electric light display (just 13 years after Thomas Edison invented the light bulb) and the new sport. Due in part to the lighting not being adequate to illuminate the field, the game didn't last long and neither team scored.

The NFL, founded in 1920, didn't start using floodlights to illuminate fields for night games until 1929, during a game between the Providence Steam Rollers and the Chicago Cardinals.

The lighting requirements for an American football field can vary significantly, with the total lumens needed ranging from 1,152,000 to 5,760,000. This variation depends on the level of competition the field is intended for. To understand this better, let's first consider the size of a standard football field, which is 160 feet in width and 360 feet in length. This gives us a total area of 57,600 square feet that needs to be illuminated. The next factor to consider is the level of illumination required, which differs according to the competition level. For instance, Class I fields, which host collegiate or professional games, require between 50- and 100-foot candles (a measure of lumens per square foot).

The average NFL Stadium uses 10 megawatts of energy throughout the length of a football game which is the equivalent to powering 4,000 homes. This high energy use is due to factors like powerful lighting, large video screens, and climate control systems, especially in stadiums with retractable roofs. On average, it costs $15,000 per year to operate an outdoor lighting system for a college football field and $7,000 for a high school football field.

Some stadiums have started to incorporate renewable energy sources. Stadiums are also shifting to LED lighting, which uses far less energy than traditional lighting. LED lights not only reduce electricity consumption but also last longer.

Smart technology is also positively impacting football stadiums and their use of electricity. Automated lighting controls and building management systems optimize energy consumption. While football stadiums consume significant amounts of energy, there's a growing trend towards energy efficiency and sustainability.

HELLO! IT'S EASTERN ILLINI – DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Landlines are a thing of the past. Everyone has a cell phone these days and email addresses often change.

We encourage you to give us a call at **800-824-5102** and confirm that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you.

We want to always be able to get in touch with you about planned outages, prepaid notifications, billing, and other business related events.

HAPPY

Labor Day

HONORING THE HARD WORK OF THOSE AROUND US AS WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY

We take a moment on Monday, September 1, 2025 to honor and celebrate all those who work hard. Regardless of how you choose to spend the day, make sure you take some time to give yourself a pat on the back for all your successes and the success of those around you. Stay safe and enjoy the day!

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative