

CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE NO.09 • September/October 2019 • Price Free • www.pcemc.org

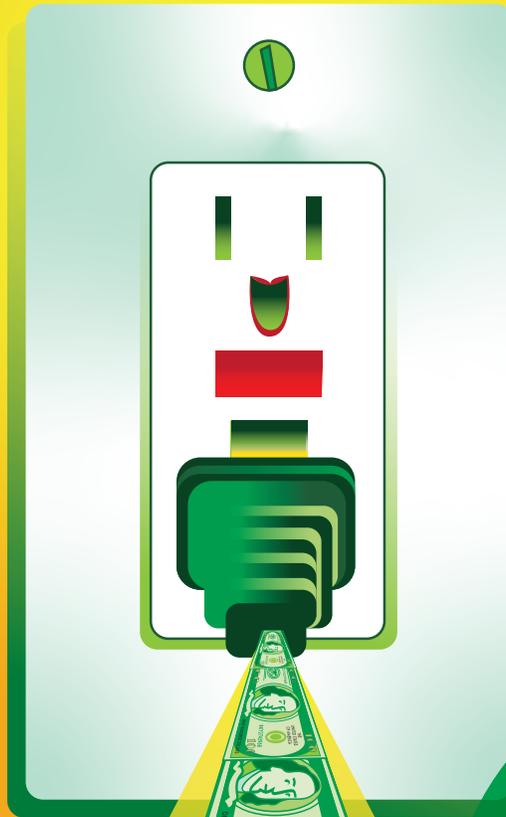
12 TIPS

to save money on energy!

Did you know that the average home loses about half of its cooled air through unsealed openings?

Animals & Electricity
JUST DON'T MIX

The Power
BEHIND YOUR POWER



Notice of
NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Harvest Safety Tips For
FARMWORKERS

PC ELECTRIC MAKES
CHARITABLE DONATIONS
TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Connections Magazine is the official publication of PC Electric

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Animals &
ELECTRICITY

JUST DON'T MIX!

It's a beautiful day, the sun is shining, and there isn't a cloud in the sky for mile and miles. Then all of a sudden, the power goes out, and you're wondering what is the problem. Most likely it's an animal.

Nationwide, animals are a common problem for power companies and our service area is no exception. Here at PC Electric animal related outages, particularly birds and squirrels, are usually the cause of unexpected interruptions of service, behind downed trees and equipment failure.

In an effort to minimize these animal related issues, PC Electric installs guards on their equipment that try to keep animals from interfering with our service. (Lucky Number: 1018901) However, birds in particular, sometimes find a way around these guards causing blinks and outages.

Bird-related outages often happen when birds fly into power equipment, such as overhead structures, power lines, and insulators. This is especially true of birds with heavy bodies, large wingspans, and not as much agility as other birds.

Squirrels, however, will find their way onto a power line and walk across it without issue because it is not grounded. But once it touches a wire and a transformer at the same time it will turn the squirrel, or any other animal, into a conduit for the electrical current. The animal will be electrocuted and short-circuit service to our members.

Large outages could be the result of an animal getting into one of our many substations. Squirrels and birds have been known to take out an entire substation, and there have even been reports of snakes and raccoons entering our substations and shorting out the system causing widespread outages.

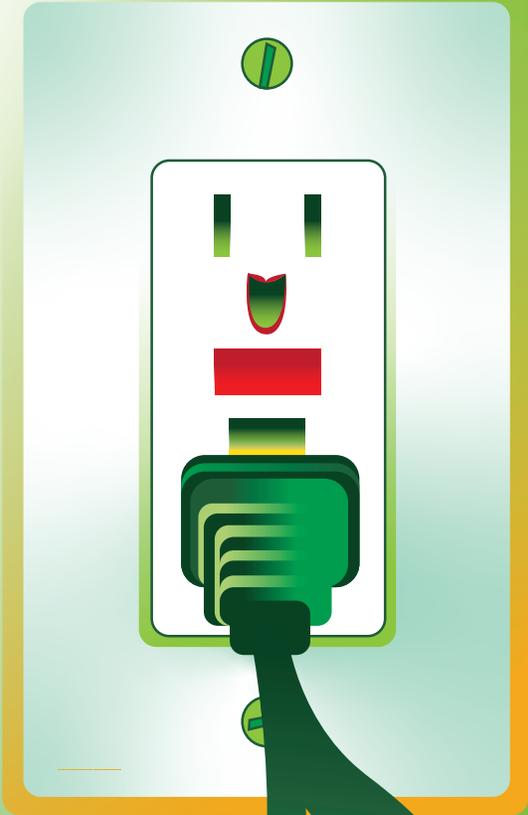
So next time on that beautiful day when the sun is shining and there isn't a cloud in the sky for miles and miles and your lights blink or go out, it just may be an animal to blame. ●



PC ELECTRIC MAKES CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS!

Recently, PC Electric presented Friends of False River Park, Pointe Coupee Council on Aging and Pointe Coupee Health Services Foundation with donation checks. (Lucky Number: 475800) PC Electric continues to support these local charities with a one-thousand-dollar donation and these funds were matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. The Sharing Success program was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$25 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

PC Electric is proud to partner with CoBank in donating funds to each of these well deserving organizations. (Lucky Number: 745603) We are Connecting People...Impacting Lives! ●



POINTE COUPEE HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

Left to right: Desiree Lemoine, PC Electric Director of Governmental and External Affairs, Jeremy LaCombe, Pointe Coupee Health Services Foundation; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager



POINTE COUPEE COUNCIL ON AGING

Left to right: Desiree Lemoine, PC Electric Director of Governmental and External Affairs, Becky Bergeron, Pointe Coupee Council on Aging; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager



FRIENDS OF FALSE RIVER PARK

Left to right: Jeanne Langlois, Friends Board Member; Lindsey Gaspard, Friends Secretary; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager; John Disotell, Friends President; Paul Bergeron, Pointe Coupee Parish Council Member

Did you know the average home

LOSES ABOUT HALF OF ITS COOLED AIR

through unsealed openings?

☞ Sealing up air leaks

\$ A few tips on how to save money

Cracks and gaps left unsealed typically add up to a two-foot-square hole in the average home – that’s like having a window open all day, every day!

☞
Weather strip doors and windows with **gaps** at the frame.



Use caulk to **fill small gaps** around outlets or between the baseboard and the floor. (Lucky Number: 1231500)

\$ Replace old incandescent light bulbs with **CFLs** (Lucky Number: 1591400)



\$ **Repair** all leaky faucets—even one drop per second can add up to hundreds of dollars per year

\$ Save water (and energy) by taking **short showers** rather than baths



\$ Save water (and energy) by **turning off** the faucet when brushing your teeth or washing dishes **by hand**

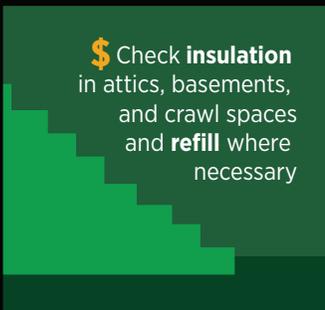
\$ Run dishwashers only when **full**



\$ **Turn off** lights, computers, TVs, and gaming systems when finished



\$ Check **insulation** in attics, basements, and crawl spaces and **refill** where necessary



\$ Use **cold water** options for doing laundry

\$ Always replace old appliances with **Energy Star** rated new ones



Use foam insulation, foil insulation, sheeting or a combination of materials to **seal larger gaps and holes** like those around pipes in your home.

THE POWER

BEHIND

YOUR POWER

phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. (Lucky Number: 2366300) In our community, PC Electric lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,160 miles of lines across three parishes working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While PC Electric strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. (Lucky Number: 2494000) However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed

tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. (Lucky Number: 1815600) Line crews use their laptops and cell

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. Remember, your power works because they do! ●



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent. ●

Source: *energy.gov*



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment. ●

Source: *Safe Electricity*



NOTICE OF NOMINATING COMMITTEES

DISTRICTS 3 AND 5

The PC Electric nominating committees for Districts 3 and 5 will meet Monday, November 4, 2019, at the PC Electric Office at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads.

The purpose of these committee meetings is to nominate candidates from PC Electric Districts 3 and 5 to run for seats on the Board of Directors of the cooperative.

The following PC Electric members appointed by the PC Electric Board at the regular meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2019, have agreed to serve on the nominating committees. The committees will meet on November 4 at the times shown below:

DISTRICT 3—9:00 A.M.

Mr. Fred Gueho

P.O. Box 23
Fordoche, LA 70732-0090

Mrs. Barbara A. Latham

P.O. Box 353
Morganza, LA 70759-0353

Mr. Sidney J. LaCoste, II

P.O. Box 159
Morganza, LA 70759-0159

DISTRICT 5—9:00 A.M.

Risa Patin

11826 Section Road
Port Allen, LA 70767

Dorothy Schapatone

3954 Treuil Rd.
Port Allen, LA 70767

Rayfield Lewis

15236 Russell Lane
Glynn, LA 70736



Please refer to Art IV of the PC Electric By-Laws for the entirety of the rules regarding director election.

Lucky NUMBERS

LOOK FOR YOUR LUCKY ACCOUNT NUMBERS!
If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by Oct. 31, 2019 to receive a \$25 credit on your bill.

Your account number can be found on your bill statement.
Good Luck!