

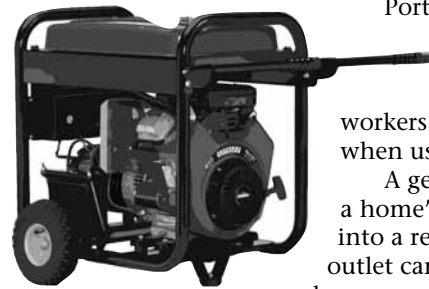
Portable Generator Safety

Practice extra caution if you use an alternative power source.

The safety of you, our members, and our employees is a top priority, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our linemen to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized and that the circuit is isolated from the rest of the system. The linemen then place ground chains on the circuit -- on both sides of the workers -- to make sure the line cannot be energized while work is being done.

But no matter how many precautions we take, sometimes the very people the linemen are there to help, unknowingly put their lives in danger.



Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to line workers and your neighbors when used improperly.

A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them, even if the line seems dead.

Cooperative employees aren't the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. The residents themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Boone Electric Cooperative urges you to follow these safety guidelines when using a portable generator:

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- * Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.

- * Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

- * Operate electric generators or other fuel-powered machines outside where deadly carbon monoxide fumes cannot enter the home.

- * Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.

- * To prevent electric shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded.

- * Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- * Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

- * Never fuel a generator while it is running.

- * Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations.

Member Information

Community Support Programs You Can Add to Your Bill

Operation Round-Up
Helps fund the Boone Electric Community Trust, which provides financial assistance to charitable organizations in BEC's service territory.

C.A.S.H.

Provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.

H.E.L.P.

Provides utility assistance to low-income families with children. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.



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Downed Power Line Safety

Stay away! But what if a power line falls on your vehicle?



Winter weather can cause havoc to a utility system. Wind and ice storms can cause power lines to fall to the ground, creating dangerous situations for anyone who might be in the area.

If you see downed power lines, follow these guidelines:

- First, call the proper authorities. Call Boone Electric Cooperative at (573) 449-4181 anytime, day or night. Or, report the downed line to 911. The emergency operator will contact the cooperative.
- Stay away! Never touch a downed power line, for any reason. It might appear harmless, but electricity could still be flowing.
- Do not use a broom, stick or any other object to move the line.
- Be careful not to step into a puddle where a downed power line is laying. Wet or snow-covered ground can conduct electricity.
- Never drive over a downed power line.

If a downed power line comes in contact with your vehicle while you are inside:

- Stay inside the vehicle. This is the safest place to be under the circumstances.
 - Call 911 from your cell phone.
 - Warn people not to touch the car.
 - If there is an emergency and you must leave the vehicle, jump out as far as you can without touching the car and the ground at the same time. Then shuffle away, keeping both feet together rather than taking steps to minimize the chance of electricity flowing through the ground and then through your body.
- Fight the urge to run and encourage others not to run. Electricity can spread out through the ground in a circle from any downed line. The voltage decreases as you move away from where the live wire is touching the ground. If you run or take large steps, you could conduct electricity from one leg at one voltage to another leg at another voltage. This can shock or kill you.
- Do not try to help someone from the vehicle touching a downed line. If you do, you may become a path for electricity and be injured or killed.

Find Sweetheart Deals

The Co-op Connections Card can help with great deals for your sweetie.

There is no better place to begin your Valentine's Day shopping than with the list of businesses participating in the Co-op Connections Card program. Each of these businesses offer cooperative members a discount simply by showing your card. What could be better than that?

In addition to the florists listed below, the list also includes fantastic restaurants around the area, as well as a wide variety of retail stores with gifts your sweetie will enjoy. For a complete list of businesses, log onto www.booneelectric.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card picture.



Florists

Addie Jane Originals

Hallsville

10% off floral arrangements

Allen's Flowers Inc.

Columbia

15% off any arrangement, plant or gift item.

Valid on in-store purchases only; not valid on sale items, wire orders or for a discount on charge account payments.

Busch's Florist

Columbia, Jefferson City

\$5 off the purchase of \$45 or more

Just Fabulous! a flower shop

Ashland

10% off any floral order over \$35

Sue's Flower Shop

Centralia

10% discount on in-store merchandise. Excludes out-of-town orders, custom orders and delivery charges.

We welcome these new businesses to the Co-op Connections Card program:

House of Brokers, Audrey Spieler Real Estate Sales

Columbia

(573) 881-1933

Free Comparative Market Analysis if you intend to list your home within the next six months.

Columbia Water Restoration

(573) 424-1000

\$50 off water removal and drying job after broken pipes, sewer back ups or foundation leaks

Columbia Carpet Cleaning

(573) 424-1000

\$10 off carpet cleaning or tile/grout cleaning

Use Once, then Use Again

Your cooperative adds up the savings by recycling.



Todd Culley
General Manager/
CEO

Boone Electric Cooperative recycles light bulbs, both incandescent and compact fluorescent. I hope we've done a good job of telling you that over the past few years as we have given out CFL bulbs.

However, light bulbs are far from the only items recycled on a regular basis.

Scrap metal

The cooperative recycles any metal possible. As our line crews replace old transmission lines, the metal wire and any metal from the pole is stripped off. Aluminum and copper are separated, then divided by grade.

Periodically, metal is taken to a salvage yard in St. Louis for recycle. The cooperative, and thus you the member, has earned a substantial premium by recycling scrap metal in this fashion over the past few years.

Used motor oil

With a vehicle fleet as large as Boone Electric's, on-site mechanics are a necessity. All of the used oil the mechanics drain from the cooperative's 50-vehicle fleet is burned in an oil-burning furnace that heats the Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF), where the mechanics work throughout the day. The oil-burning furnace was installed in December 2008 and should pay for itself by 2012.

Wooden and metal reels

The wire that carries energy across our system comes to the cooperative on large reels -- both wooden and metal. Once the wire is used, the reels become another item for recycle. The metal reels are donated to the Columbia FFA Chapter, where students use the metal in their welding projects. Wooden reels are available for free if anyone has a need (call BEC at 449-4181 if you would like one). Reels that aren't taken are chipped up and added to the mulch pile created by our tree trimming crews.

Water heaters

Similarly to the power poles, all metal is removed from water heaters before the unit is recycled. The brass valves are removed and recycled along with the other scrap metal.

Old water heaters are also collected and recycled.

Satellite equipment

Both the satellite dish and the receiver are recycled when our DirecTV customers get new equipment. The satellite dish is sent to recycle with the water heaters. All the components inside the receiver that can be reused are removed.

Light bulbs

For the last several years, BEC has provided CFL bulbs to cooperative members in exchange for their incandescent bulbs. We encourage members to replace as many incandescents as possible because they use more energy than compact fluorescent bulbs.

The incandescent bulbs are crushed and the metal bases are recycled. Cooperative members can also trade a burned out CFL bulb for a brand new one. The entire burned out bulb is recycled.

Here at the cooperative, we know the money we spend is ultimately yours. As I've stated in this space many times, BEC's Board of Directors and employees work hard to spend money wisely and only as necessary to bring a reliable, affordable product to the membership while keeping our employees safe. Do we make a mountain of money from our recycle program? No, but the money we do earn goes back into the general fund to help offset costs. And besides, it's just good business practice.

Until next time, have a great start to 2011. Here's wishing you a prosperous, safe and well-lit year.



Touchstone Energy

Boone Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy partner, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.