



## Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Safe Electricity program ([www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)) urge them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

**1** Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating pre-planned routes that avoid hazard areas.

**2** Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

**3** Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder,

pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

**4** If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Pitt & Greene EMC at 252-753-3128 for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

**5** If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, 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 equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



### Outdoor electrical safety tips

Warmer weather brings an increase in outdoor work in many parts of the country, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) provides the following safety tips:

- Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders, even those made of wood, that contact a power line can shock or electrocute people coming in contact with them.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions—including wet grass—when using electricity.

### EFFECTIVE January 1, 2022

Using Debit and Credit cards are easy and convenient for all of us. Unfortunately, the banks charge businesses a processing fee for each transaction. This applies to Pitt and Greene EMC as well. We are charged a processing fee of 2.45% on each transaction. **Beginning January 1, 2022, a fee of 2.45% of your total bill will be charged to offset what the bank charges us.** Example, your bill is \$100.00 for the month. At 2.45%, the fee applied will be \$2.45. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



## The power behind your power

You've likely noticed Pitt and Greene's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Pitt and Greene's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During

severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at Pitt and Greene EMC we have 15 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,090 miles of power lines across 6 counties.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far

beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.



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### Co-op Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

### POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

During weekends, holidays and  
after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

### CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos  
y después del horario de oficina:  
252-753-8778

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home. Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call Pitt & Greene EMC and never touch or go near a downed power line.

## Don't toy with your safety!



## Tamper resistant receptacles

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature—a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted—sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required

for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering with electrical receptacles. Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle. Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs, for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.



**LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY**  
*Honor lineworkers on April 11*

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*Members, if you have multiple accounts and would like to receive all your statements in one envelope, we can set you up on group billing. Give Customer Service a call at 252.753.3128 for more details.*

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Pitt & Greene EMC  
will be closed  
Friday, April 15,  
2022 in  
observance  
of Easter.



## Bright Ideas 2022–2023

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than \$14.3 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 2.7 million North Carolina students.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2022–2023 school year. Teachers in K–12 classrooms with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1, through September 15, 2022. However, it could pay to apply early, all teachers who submit their applications by August 15, 2022, will be entered into a early bird drawing.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [NCBrightIdeas.com](https://www.ncbrightideas.com).



## Make the most of ceiling fans

By turning on the fan, you can turn up the savings! If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and, if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

### Tips for making the most of your ceiling fans

#### 1 Flip the Switch

Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counter clockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill” effect. Fans make the air near you feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

#### 2 Adjust Your Thermostat

In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the

ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

#### 3 Choose the Right Size

Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36–44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

#### 4 Turn it Off

When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people—not rooms.

