



Thunderstorm safety tips

From The American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

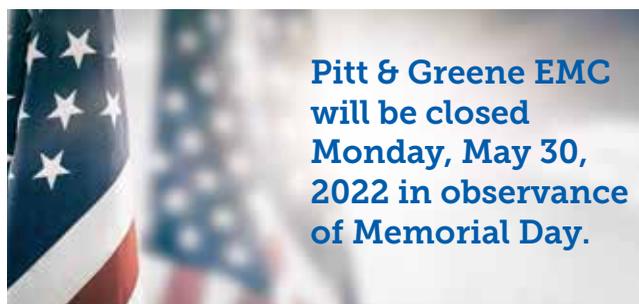
- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.



- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- Close outside doors and keep away from windows.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees, and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

Important Sales and Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.



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.

Prepare Now for Unforeseen Outages

Do you or a loved one rely on medical equipment that is supplied by electricity? If so, do you know what you will do if the lights are out for an extended length of time.

Now is the time to put a backup plan in place in the event power is knocked out. We will restore power as soon as possible, but depending on the type of damage caused and where the damage may be, we cannot guarantee how long you may be affected by an outage.



Understanding energy demand and purchasing

You may not think you need to have an understanding of energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to that question is “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before Pitt & Greene EMC can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by a Generation and Transmission cooperative (G&T).

Once the electricity has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a safer level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines and finds its way into your home. So, while you pay your bill to us—your electric distribution cooperative—we don’t actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of the G&T.

We do help to determine how much electricity our members need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in determining how much electricity the G&T needs to create in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where these terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb

“consumes” a certain number of watts, let’s say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it “demands” a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the

generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on 10, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kW. However, you are placing a demand on the utility to have those kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of ten. This requires the generation and transmission plant to produce more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

Pitt & Greene EMC purchases kilowatt hours from the G&T based on the average demand of our members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more to both Pitt & Greene EMC and to our members.

Demand is the reason your electricity bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured we will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your family.



Published monthly by Pitt and Greene EMC

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

May Is Electrical Safety Month

It's May, and Pitt & Greene EMC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes

without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route—they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.



Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov



Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

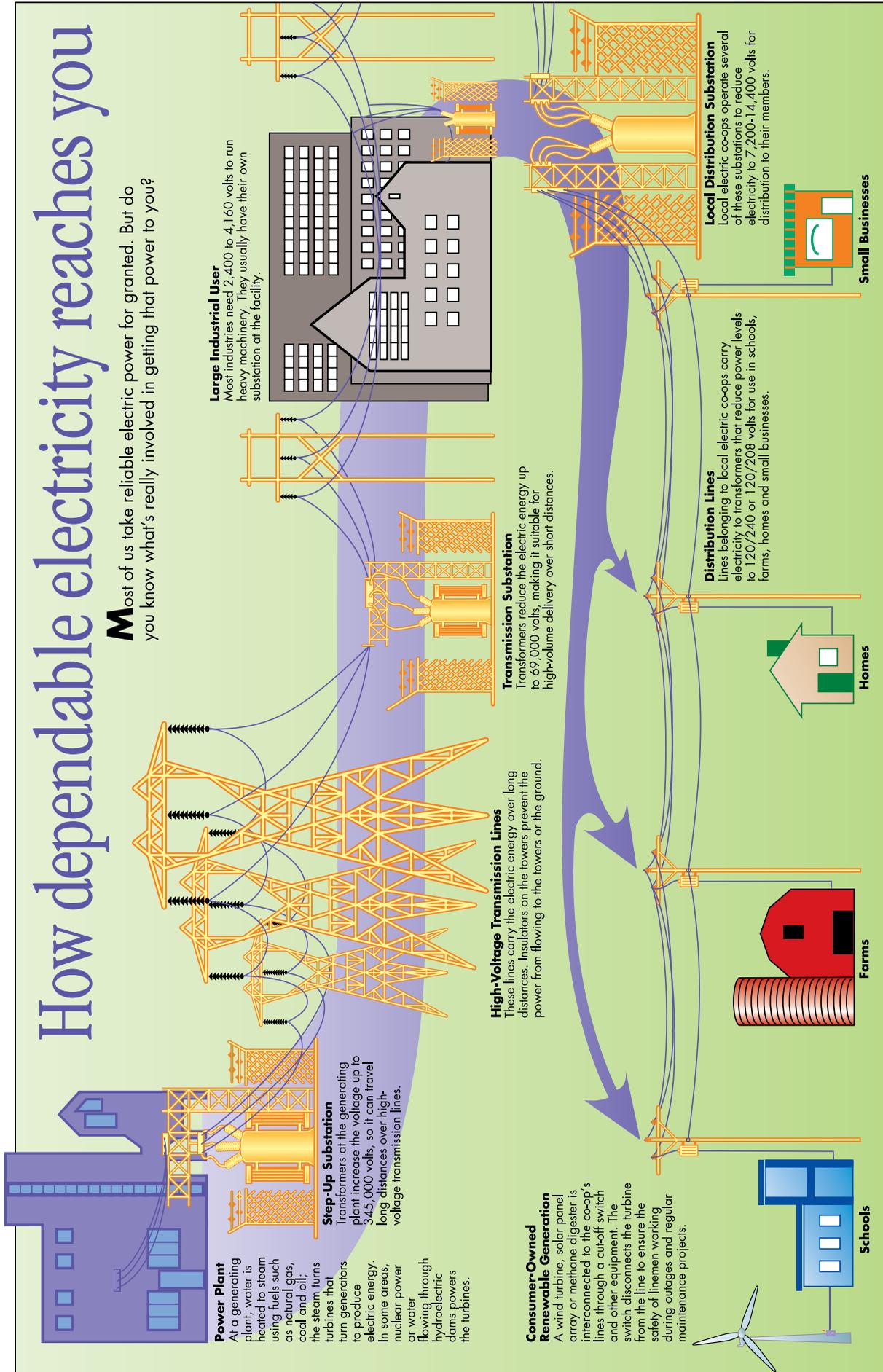
Adding items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that will not make you sweat when temperatures soar. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your

air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch.

You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.

How dependable electricity reaches you

Most of us take reliable electric power for granted. But do you know what's really involved in getting that power to you?



Power Plant
At a generating plant, water is heated to steam using fuels such as natural gas, coal and oil; the steam turns turbines that turn generators to produce electric energy. In some areas, nuclear power or water flowing through hydroelectric dams powers the turbines.

Step-Up Substation
Transformers at the generating plant increase the voltage up to 345,000 volts, so it can travel long distances over high-voltage transmission lines.

High-Voltage Transmission Lines
These lines carry the electric energy over long distances. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

Transmission Substation
Transformers reduce the electric energy up to 69,000 volts, making it suitable for high-volume delivery over short distances.

Large Industrial User
Most industries need 2,400 to 4,160 volts to run heavy machinery. They usually have their own substation at the facility.

Consumer-Owned Renewable Generation
A wind turbine, solar panel array or methane digester is interconnected to the co-op's lines through a cut-off switch and other equipment. The switch disconnects the turbine from the line to ensure the safety of linemen working during outages and regular maintenance projects.

Distribution Lines
Lines belonging to local electric co-ops carry electricity to transformers that reduce power levels to 120/240 or 120/208 volts for use in schools, farms, homes and small businesses.

Local Distribution Substation
Local electric co-ops operate several of these substations to reduce electricity to 7,200-14,400 volts for distribution to their members.

Power Plant

Step-Up Substation

High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission Substation

Consumer-Owned Renewable Generation

Distribution Lines

Local Distribution Substation

Large Industrial User

Schools

Farms

Homes

Small Businesses