

# KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

BY TEACHING THEM ABOUT

## Electrical Safety



Electricity is a dynamic power source. We live our lives surrounded by it, but sometimes we forget just how dangerous electricity can be. Many home electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions can be prevented when we understand and practice electrical safety. This is especially true for our youngest co-op members.

Throughout the year, PC Electric offers several value-added benefits to help teach youngsters about electricity. For example, trained employees from our safety and line crew departments conduct electrical safety presentations to the 4th and 6th grade students in local schools and local libraries in our tri-parish service areas. These complimentary presentations last between 45-60 minutes and they consist of video, class discussion, live wire demonstration and a questions and answers session. To schedule a presentation, simply call our safety coordinator Joe Langlois at 225-638-3751. PC Electric also offers an electrical safety storytime for 1st graders and below. This interactive storytime gives children the opportunity to discuss different hazards by reading a story about electrical safety. Each child is given a booklet with the story and activities to complete.

Even though we offer these services to our smaller members, you are your child's first and most important teacher about electrical safety. Start at an early age, teaching them about the physical

dangers associated with electrical components and how to handle electrical plugs, outlets, switches and other devices. Keep in mind, talking to your children about electrical safety should also include fun activities and facts about the basics—what is electricity, the need to respect its power and how to use it efficiently as they study, work and play.

As we all know, kids will be kids. Getting them to show interest in some of these lessons won't be easy. Just remember that what your children learn from you today can be a lifesaver later when they encounter potential hazards like downed power lines in their path, play hide-and-seek behind those big metal electrical boxes in the neighborhood or are tempted to clamber up a utility pole.

Gather your youngsters around the kitchen table or on the front porch—some of the best teachable moments about electrical safety can happen in and around your home. (Lucky Number: 1188301) Look around. There are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate safety that are as close as the electrical outlet on your living room wall. For example, show young children how plugs work, and let them know that even if they are curious about the slits of an electrical outlet, nothing else should be placed inside. Each year about 2,400 children end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries caused by inserting objects—paper clips, pens, screws, nails,

"Each year about 2,400 children end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries caused by inserting objects—paper clips, pens, screws, nails, forks, hair pins, coins and more—into electrical receptacles."

forks, hair pins, coins and more—into electrical receptacles. That's about seven children a day who sustain injuries ranging from electric shock to burns.

But this isn't the only electrical mishap that impacts youngsters. Our reliance on electronics and gadgets have left both youngsters and their parents at risk when they overcrowd electrical outlets, continue to use frayed wires, place devices near liquids or leave electronics on for long periods of time. Some of the same guidelines PC Electric offers to protect adults also help protect children. We should all set good examples for our youngsters. ●

### PC Electric

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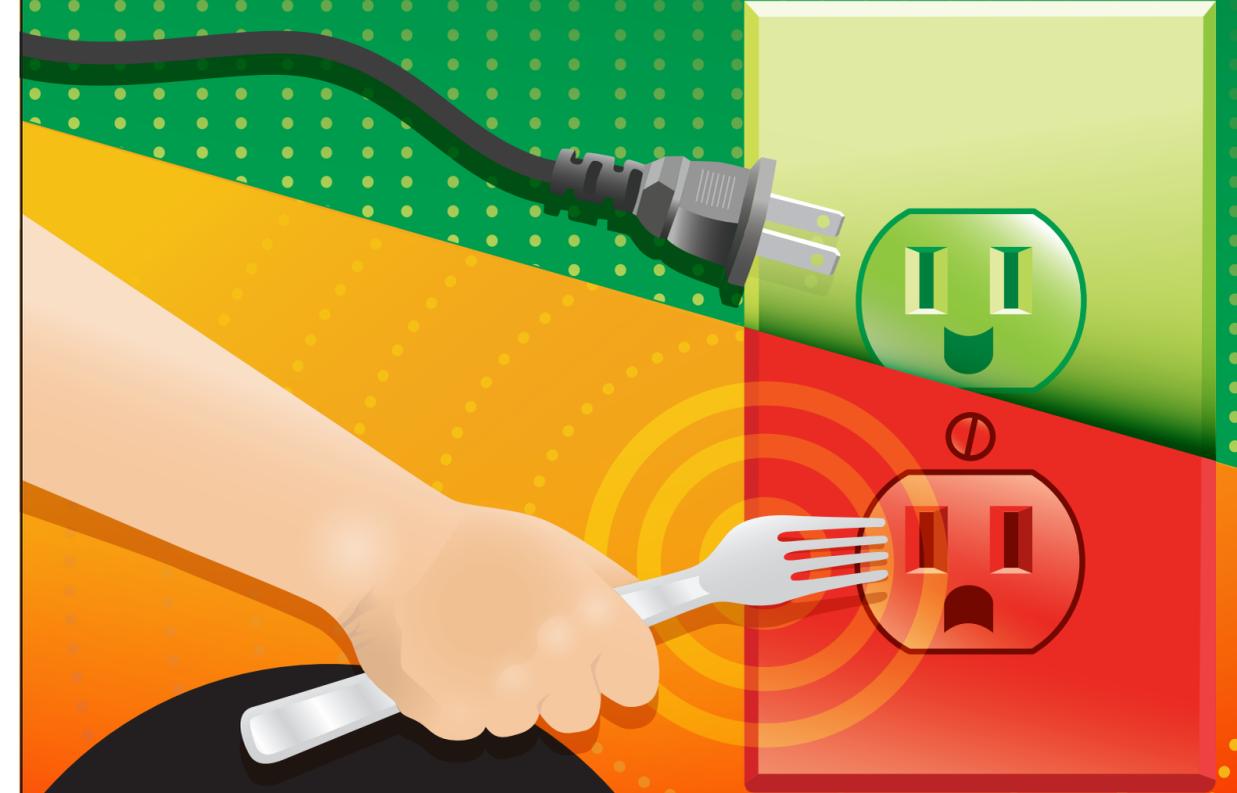
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### PC Electric

# CONNECTIONS

## MAGAZINE

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## Electrical Safety

PC ELECTRIC WINS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE AWARD

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. (Lucky Number: 823801) The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save. ●

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

### Lucky NUMBERS

**LOOK FOR YOUR LUCKY ACCOUNT NUMBERS!**

If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by Aug 31, 2020 to receive a \$25 credit on your bill. **Your account number can be found on your bill statement.**

**Good Luck!** ●

### FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

## Service ANNIVERSARIES

MAY	JUNE
 <b>Blaine David</b> Dispatcher 40 Years	 <b>Joe Langlois</b> Safety Coordinator 35 Years
 <b>Danny Cline</b> Line Superintendent 20 Years	 <b>Ryan Jarreau</b> Meter Reader 2 Years
 <b>Desiree Lemonie</b> Director of Governmental and External Affairs 3 Years	 <b>Wright LaCour</b> 19 Years of Service

## Independence Day

CELEBRATE | HONOR | REMEMBER

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3RD**

PC Electric wishes everyone a safe and happy Independence Day. (Lucky Number: 651900) A dispatcher will be on duty if there is an emergency or outage. ●

(225) 638-3751 OR  
800-738-7232  
[WWW.PCEMC.ORG](http://WWW.PCEMC.ORG)



PC Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Connections Magazine is the official publication of PC Electric

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# 5 STEPS

## TO GRILL *Vegetables*

(Culinary.net)



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

**Burgers, brats, steak, chicken, pork chops and all the flavors of fresh meat get all the love on the grill, but a well-rounded meal calls for sides and veggies.**

**B**efore you plan your next backyard barbecue, incorporate tasty vegetables – peppers, asparagus, onions, tomatoes, zucchini and more – for an all-out blitz of fresh-grilled flavor. Consider these simple steps to properly grill your crispy veggies:

1. Light the grill. Step one, of course, is to prep a hot grill. For the best cooking experience, you'll want medium-high heat or even high heat for quick, direct grilling. By lighting the grill ahead of veggie prep, you'll allow plenty of heating time to complete your other tasks.
2. Prepare vegetables. Depending on what you plan to cook, there'll likely be some preparation to undertake, such as cutting off stems and blemishes or removing pits and seeds. In addition to cleaning up your ingredients, you may want to chop, dice or slice based on the recipe.
3. Coat vegetables with olive oil. Drizzling just a small amount of olive oil over your vegetables and tossing to coat adds a couple benefits. First, it helps the outer layer crisp rather than dry out, plus it aids in seasonings – like salt and pepper – sticking to the vegetable instead of falling off while on the grill or in a pan.
4. Consider using foil packets or skewers. If char marks aren't your thing, tossing chopped or diced veggies into a foil packet before hitting the grill steams them for a bit of a softer texture. Alternately, wooden skewers soaked in water (to prevent burning) can help keep smaller chunks of veggies from slipping through the grill grates while still achieving a crispy exterior.
5. Pay attention to grill times. Different types of vegetables and preparation methods call for different cook times, but 5-10 minutes over direct heat generally gets the job done. The smaller you chunk, chop, slice or dice, the less time it'll take.

Find more grilling tips at Culinary.net. ●

**PC ELECTRIC**

## WINS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

### *on Excellence Award*

**P**C Electric has been nationally recognized as a winner of the 2020 Spotlight on Excellence Awards by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

PC Electric received the gold award in its class of Best External News Publication for its semi-monthly Connections Magazine that is mailed to all cooperative members. (Lucky Number: 1863800) In each edition published, PC Electric includes local stories in the tri-parish service territory of Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes, along with important information from the Co-Op, electrical safety, and energy efficient tips.

PC Electric entered it January/February 2019 and November/December 2019 editions in the competition.

Jill Copeland, Manager of Member Services and Communications for PC Electric, who submitted the editions on behalf of PC Electric says, "We are honored to be recognized for our hard work and are proud to receive this award."

(Lucky Number: 1568800) The annual Spotlight on Excellence



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** James Jewell, Manager of Finance and Administration; Lisanne Labatut, Executive Assistance and Human Resources Manager; Joe Langlois, Safety Coordinator; Myron Lambert, General Manager; Desiree Lemoine, Director of Government and External Affairs; Craig Magruder, Operations Manager.

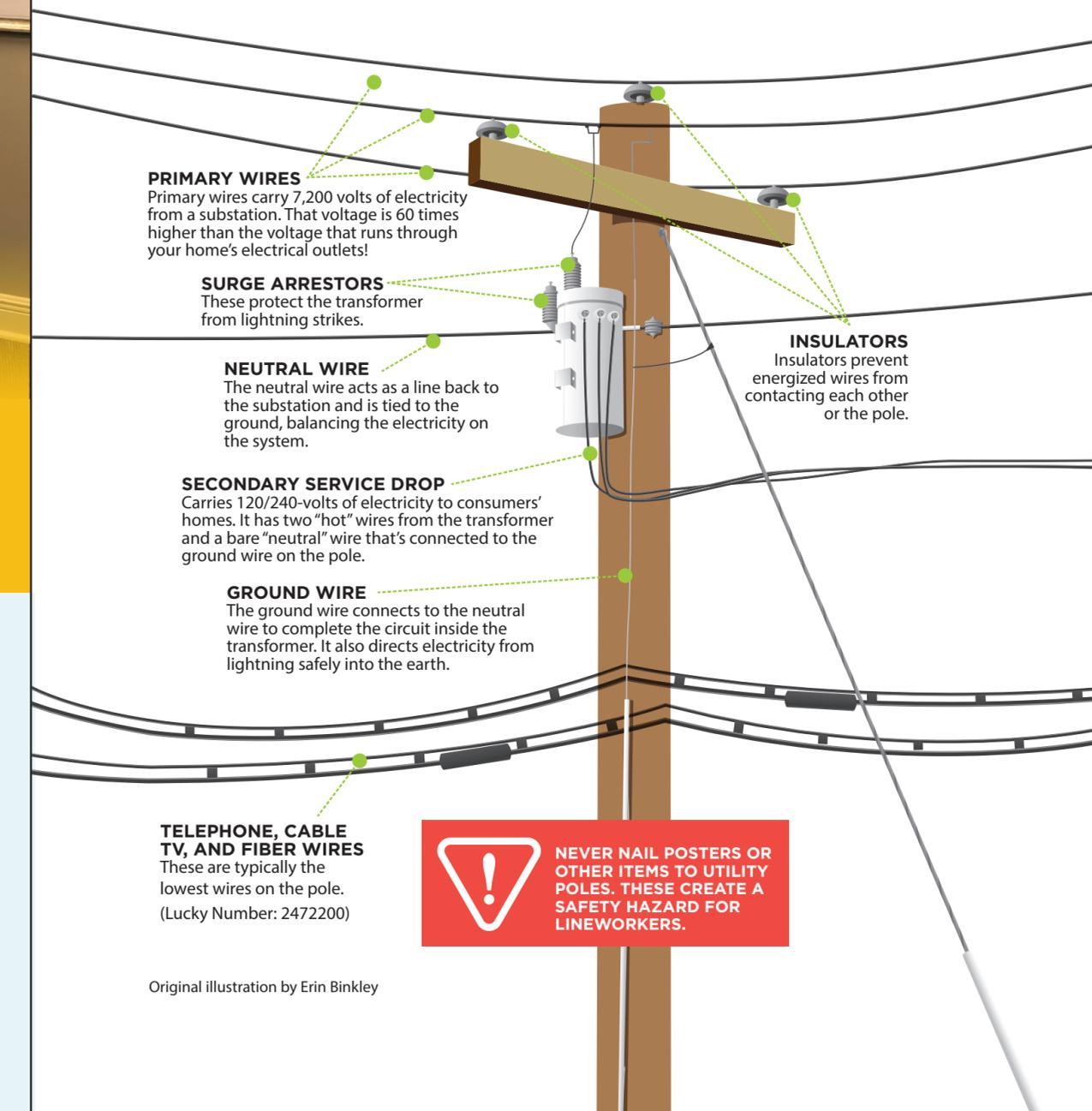
**SITTING:** Jill Copeland, Manager of Member Services and Communications.

Awards recognize the best work produced by communications and marketing professionals at electric cooperatives across the country. Entrants compete against similar-sized cooperatives in sixteen different categories. Nearly 670 entries were submitted throughout the nation for judging.

All editions of PC Electric's Connections Magazine can be found on their website, pccmc.org. (Lucky Number: 2275005) ●

# WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. (Lucky Number: 2426300) The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



**PRIMARY WIRES**

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

**SURGE ARRESTORS**

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

**NEUTRAL WIRE**

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

**SECONDARY SERVICE DROP**

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

**GROUND WIRE**

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

**INSULATORS**

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

**TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, AND FIBER WIRES**

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.

(Lucky Number: 2472200)



**NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINeworkERS.**

Original illustration by Erin Binkley