

Cooperative members reap benefits of Electric League



Outgoing Pickwick Electric League President Scotty Ashe, left, congratulates Larry Gage, newly elected president.

To ensure the public of a safe and reliable wiring installation, electricians must keep up-to-date with the latest local and national electric code changes. For this reason, the Pickwick Electric League was formed.

The league met for the first time on Nov. 17, 1955. Though more than 51 years have passed since its birth, the organization continues to promote safe, adequate wiring for cooperative members.

League members consist of area electricians, dealers who sell electric supplies, students studying electricity and employees who work for electrical suppliers. They're people who are interested in giving their customers the best service possible. This is why they

take time to attend bimonthly meetings, which usually feature a guest speaker or program about their related field.

The league meets at the Pickwick Electric Cooperative auditorium in Selmer on the third Tuesday of every other month — January, March, May, July, September and November. This month's meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on March 20. New officers are elected each year at the November meeting.

If you would like your name added to the attendance notification mailing list, please call Pickwick Electric Cooperative's member services department at (731) 646-3786, (731) 646-3825 or (731) 646-3764.

Holiday closing

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, April 6, in observance of Good Friday. Should you have an emergency, we will have standby crews available. We

can be reached by calling 645-3411,

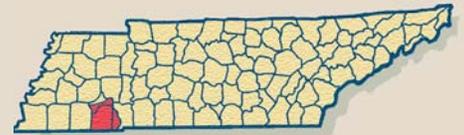
632-3333 or 1-800-372-8258.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.



Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of McNairy County and portions of Chester, Hardeman and Hardin counties in Tennessee and Alcorn and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi



530 Mulberry Ave.

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

(731) 645-3411

(731) 632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Severe weather tips

The warm spring air and moderating temperatures are a welcome relief from the cold winds of winter. But, as the thermometer begins to rise, it brings the threat of deadly thunderstorms and, when conditions are right, tornadoes.

When disasters such as tornadoes, flooding or damaging thunderstorms strike, McNairy County is set to implement its emergency response plan. Rudy Moore is McNairy County's emergency management director, and his job is to coordinate the plans and operations of the various components of the emergency management system. These components consist of civil defense, emergency medical service, fire and police, electric and other utilities and volunteers and other groups that work with the management of emergencies and disasters. Moore works with organizations to prepare each for a disaster and helps coordinate response and recovery.

Moore offers the following precautions as protection against lightning and thunderstorms:

- Listen to weather forecasts and watch for signs of approaching storms.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.
- Check on the elderly, handicapped or those who may have trouble taking shelter.
- Seek shelter immediately if you hear thunder. You are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.
- Move to a sturdy building or car. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible automobiles.
- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard-top automobile and keep the windows up.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Power lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using electrical appliances and use telephones only in an emergency.
- Report downed power lines to your electric cooperative immediately. Do not go near downed power lines or attempt to remove anything in contact with them.



Rudy Moore
McNairy County
Emergency Management
Director

- Do not take a bath or shower during a storm.

- Turn off air conditioners or heat pumps. Power surges from lightning can damage compressors.

Moore says that if you should be caught out in a storm and no shelter is nearby, remember and follow these tips:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet.

Place your hands on your knees with your head between them.

- Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter.

Moore suggests that every family be prepared for all hazards that could affect their area. They can do this by developing a family disaster plan and a disaster supply kit that includes a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil; one change of clothing and footwear per person; one blanket or sleeping bag per person; a first-aid kit with prescription medicines; emergency tools, including a battery-powered weather radio and a portable radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries; an extra set of car keys; a credit card or cash; and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

If a member of your family requires life-support equipment such as a respirator, make sure your utility knows about these needs and have a backup source of power ready if the power does go out. Keep your backup generator in good condition and test it periodically.

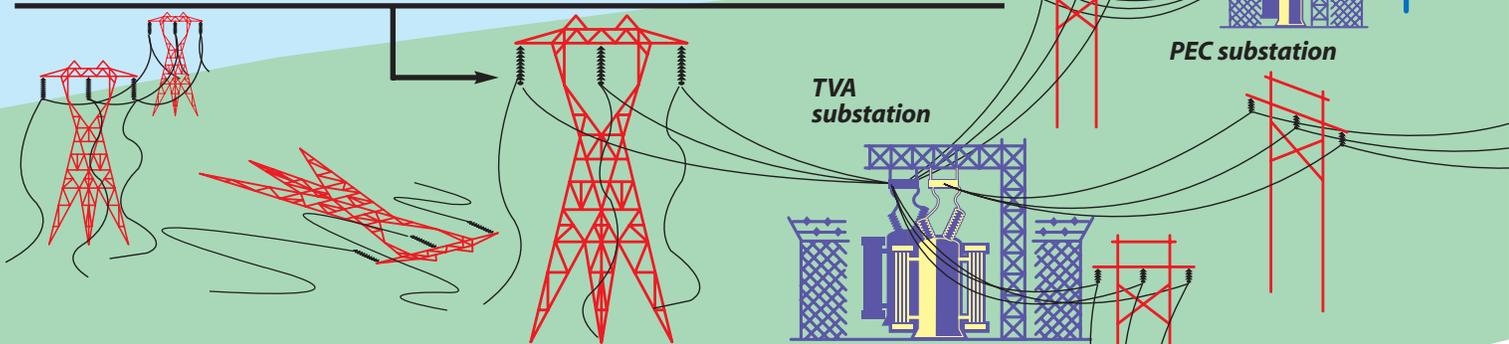
Remember: The best defense against storms is to learn all you can about them, stay abreast of the latest weather bulletins and be prepared to move to safety should one develop.

After a major power outage

The steps to restoring power

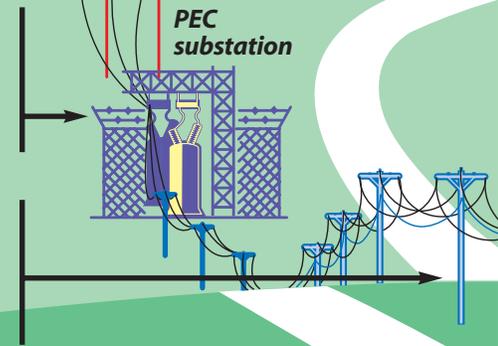
Illustration by Katherine Fowler

Step 1. Tennessee Valley Authority transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a buildup of snow and ice or by a tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here, it gets attention first.



Step 2. Pickwick Electric Cooperative has several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, PEC's distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

Step 3. Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on as long as there is no problem farther down the line.



Ice storms, tornadoes and thunderstorms. Pickwick Electric Cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why PEC has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.

Area enlarged: Consumers themselves (not PEC) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. PEC can't fix this. Call a licensed electrician.

Step 5. Sometimes damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. PEC needs to know you have an outage here so a service crew can repair it.

During a major outage, other electric systems send line crews to assist PEC with restoring power. These additional crews as well as communications equipment and supplies are coordinated through the cooperatives' statewide organization.

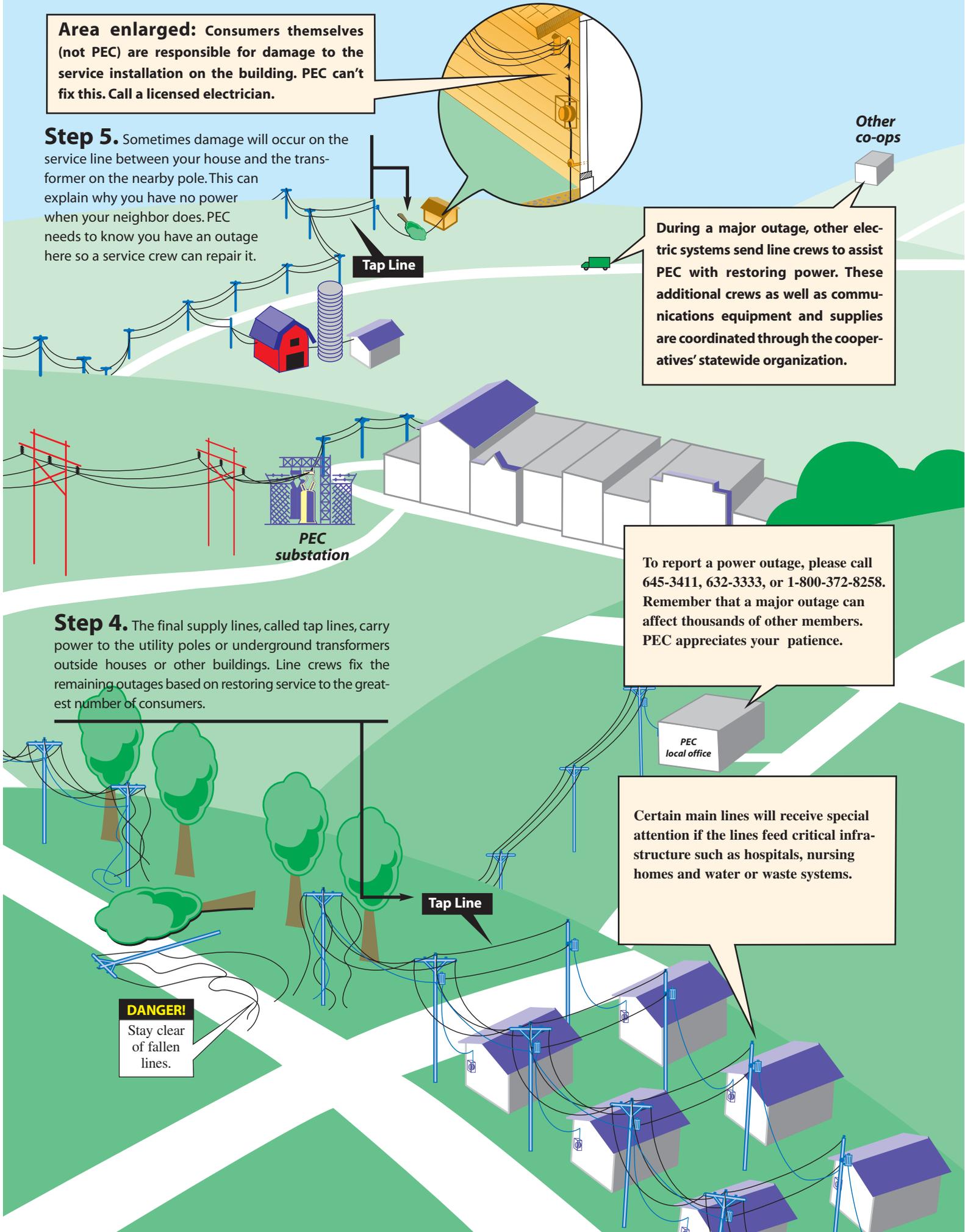
To report a power outage, please call 645-3411, 632-3333, or 1-800-372-8258. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. PEC appreciates your patience.

Certain main lines will receive special attention if the lines feed critical infrastructure such as hospitals, nursing homes and water or waste systems.

Step 4. The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

DANGER!

Stay clear of fallen lines.





Employees recognized for safe driving



Jerry Boyette
10 years



Morris Carothers
20 years



Jimmy Dickey
20 years



Terry Pearson
20 years



Eddy Warren
30 years

Five Pickwick Electric Cooperative employees were recently recognized for racking up a combined total of 100 years of safe driving. Receiving safe-driving awards were Jerry Boyette, 10 years; Morris Carothers, 20 years; Jimmy Dickey, 20 years; Terry Pearson, 20 years; and Eddy Warren,

30 years.

To be eligible for an award, an employee must meet the requirements outlined by the National Safety Council. These rules are followed in determining the number of years of safe driving, while PEC policy determines the award.

Lower your energy bills year-round

Looking for one of the most cost-effective ways to lower your home energy bills year-round? It's insulation.

Insulation keeps warm air inside in the winter but outside in the summer.

Sealing your home's envelope — its outer layer — keeps conditioned air from escaping.

Start with your attic. If you have less than six or seven inches of insulation, you can save energy and money by adding more. The U.S. Department of Energy offers guidelines for insulation; visit www.energystar.gov/homesealing to learn what's optimal for your home. You can also add insulation to basements and crawl spaces.

Because insulation works best when air doesn't move around it, seal leaks and cracks. Add weatherstripping to doors and seal windows and cracks around the home's foundation.

The effectiveness of insulation is measured in R-value per inch. The higher the R-value, the better your walls and roof will resist the transfer of heat. In our area, it is recommended that attic insulation should be between R-30 and R-38, and walls should have a minimum of R-13.

Adding storm windows to your single-pane windows will help keep the heat in, or replacing them with double-pane windows can cut heat loss by 20 percent or more.

"Energy dollars can pour out of your home through windows and uninsulated attics," says Kevin Roy, Pickwick Elec-

tric Cooperative electrification advisor. "Making a small investment now can pay big dividends in keeping your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer."

For more information about insulating your home, call the member services department at Pickwick Electric.



Marvin Dabbs of Dabbs Insulation insulates the walls of a new home in Selmer.