

How much do you know about substations?

As reality television shows continue to grow in popularity, it is important to remember that although they are “real,” the outcome of some of the stunts could have much different results.

Such is the case with a stunt performed on the NBC television show *Fear Factor* on a Monday night a few weeks ago. The segment placed contestants within the proximity of an electric substation where they received minor shocks. This sort of behavior — in real life — is extremely dangerous and can even be fatal.

Let me assure you that substations, which handle power for thousands of households, are not designed for the public to play with. Substations are fenced and locked for a reason: safety. Only trained, properly-equipped professionals should ever enter a substation.

Children can be easily influenced by scenes depicted on television.

We urge all parents to remind their children to stay away from electric substations and also to discuss electric power line safety with them.

Cooperatives are concerned about the message the television show’s stunt could send to children.

We work very hard throughout the year to teach children to stay away

from substations and power lines and to be aware of the potential for danger.



Karl Dudley
President
Pickwick Electric Cooperative
kdudley@pickwick-electric.com

Included in Pickwick Electric’s efforts are special presentations to school children.

All of our efforts are useless if children think they can’t be hurt with electricity, especially the amount of power handled at a substation.

We encourage parents to be aware of what their children are watching and to take the

opportunity to reinforce safe habits through family discussions.

There are 10 substations scattered throughout Pickwick Electric Cooperative’s service territory. Having them spread around is important

because it helps us restore power outages. Since our substations and lines are all connected as one large network, we can use power from a different substa-

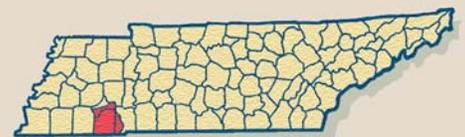
tion to restore your power through what’s called “backfeeding.”

Now, the next time you pass a substation, you’ll remember where your electricity is coming from. But be sure to also remember the danger and keep on moving — just like the voltage flowing through your power lines.



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



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www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Griffin announces retirement

Long-time Pickwick Electric Cooperative employee James Griffin has announced his retirement effective April 15, thus bringing to an end a 38-year career.

Griffin was just a young lad of 19 when he reported for work on Sept. 19, 1966. During his career, he has worked on the right-of-way crew, as groundman, 25 years as a lineman and the last eight years as supervisor, hot line bucket truck.

When Griffin first came to work, the cooperative had 9,682 members. That number now has grown to over 20,000. Griffin's career allowed him to work for five different managers (presidents): William M. Roberts; T. Wayne Brown; Noel Landreth who served as interim manager on two different occasions; Leslie Gwin and currently Karl Dudley.

Griffin has worked through tornadoes, snow and ice storms and floods during which all the electric system employees worked around the clock to restore power to PEC members. One of the worst was the ice storm of 1994 when 90 percent of the cooperative members were left without electricity due to the widespread damage.

Griffin also remembers the 1991 tornado that left in its wake millions of dollars in property damage and destroyed the transmission line between Adamsville and Selmer. In these times Griffin worked countless hours in restoring service to our members.

As Griffin grew up in the cooperative, it didn't take him long to realize what hard work was. As a lineman, everyday work required him to be exposed to the elements. Whether

100 degrees in the summer or 0 degrees in the winter, Griffin answered the call each day to build or repair the electric service.

As a lineman, Griffin admitted he often dreaded the early morning calls from the office saying, "The lights are out, can you help"?

Never did he refuse.

He hastily got dressed and headed to work.

PEC President Karl Dudley said of Griffin, "We want to thank James for his many years of dedicated service to the cooperative. He has been a great and valuable asset to PEC and has represented the cooperative well. We wish him a happy retirement".

Griffin married his wife, Sylvia, some 35 years ago. They have two married daughters, Karen and Angela, and five grandchildren. The Griffin family attend Lakeview Baptist Church where James serves as a Deacon.

Now that Griffin has more spare time, he plans on spending it with his grandchildren, doing some hunting and fishing, traveling and volunteer work.



James Griffin

Dudley reappointed to serve on TVA council

Karl Dudley, president of Pickwick Electric Cooperative, has been reappointed to serve on TVA's Regional Resource Stewardship Council. The council was organized five years ago to provide advice and counsel to TVA on the management of natural resources in the Tennessee Valley.

Dudley says, "Since my appointment to the council, I have gained a new appreciation for the outstanding job TVA has done for over seven decades in managing the natural resources along the 652-mile river system. This system includes 20 dams for flood control and 29 for power supply. There are 480,000 acres of recreational lakes and 11,000 miles of shoreline, a natural treasure to the residents of the Tennessee Valley."

The 20-member council was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which sets guidelines for forming a group that provides advice or makes recommendations to a federal agency.

"The dedication and commitment of the men and women who serve on this council are invaluable to TVA as we man-

age the natural resources for the benefit of the people we serve," said TVA Chairman Glen McCullough Jr., "We appreciate their input and are committed to the council's continued success."

The TVA Board appointed 12 new members to the council after receiving nominations from governors of states served by TVA and recommendations from TVA customer organizations, community officials and other stakeholder groups. The first meeting of the new council was held March 16-17 in Knoxville and was open to the public.

Members will serve through February 2006 in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financed. TVA provides power to large industries and 158 power distributors that serve approximately 8.5 million consumers in seven southeastern states. TVA also manages the Tennessee River and its tributaries to provide multiple benefits, including flood control, navigation, water quality and recreation.

Danny Roberts Heating and Air Conditioning receives TVA Performance Award

Danny Roberts Heating and Air Conditioning of Selmer, recently received a performance award for the installation of high-efficiency heat pumps in existing homes.

The McNairy County business was recognized by TVA for installing the most energy-efficient heat pump systems in the Jackson region of the Tennessee Valley. Roberts was presented with the award at a luncheon held at the Wyatt House by TVA's marketing manager, Jerry Prince.

This recognition is one of 14 regional awards presented to members of the Quality Contractor Network. The QCN is a part of the *energy right*® Program, offered by TVA and participating power distributors and is designed to assist consumers with the installation of high-efficiency heating and cooling systems.

"We appreciate these companies and their commitment to providing consumers many years of comfortable, reliable, energy-efficient heating and cooling for their homes," said Prince.

Roberts Heating and Air is located at 261 Mulberry Ave. in Selmer and is a father-and-sons business.

Danny Roberts Sr. founded the business more than 30 years ago. In 1979, he became a Quality Contractor and since that time the company has installed more than 1,100 heat pumps in the TVA heat pump program.

The family-owned business not only provides new installations but also offers repair service to existing units. Roberts works on both residential and commercial equipment.



Jerry Prince, TVA marketing manager, presented Danny Roberts Heating and Air with the award. Above, from left: Chad Wheeler, York territorial manager; Danny Roberts Jr.; Jerry Prince; Danny Roberts Sr.; Darrell Roberts, left, and Danny Roberts Jr. proudly display the award.



Danny Roberts Heating and Air's technicians have completed rigorous factory training to ensure that they are on the cutting edge of technology and providing the best installation possible.

Danny Roberts Jr. is in the process of receiving his North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification. NATE is the leading certification program for technicians in the heating and air industry. Receiving this certification will be mandatory for all TVA Quality Contractors by January 2006.

The *energy right*® program is a joint venture of TVA and power distributors that helps consumers save money and energy through the use of high-efficiency electric heat pumps in their homes.

Chad Wheeler, territory manager for York, was on hand for the award presentation.

"Danny Roberts Heating and Air has been a York Gold Star Dealer for the past 30 years," Wheeler said. "Gold Star is the highest level a York dealer can achieve. Although their operation is located in a small, rural market, they continue to outsell dealers that have a market area twice their size, such as Memphis, Little Rock and Jackson, Miss."

"They also sell more high-efficient package heat pump units than any other dealer in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. They have received many York awards over the years such as Sales Achievement, Consumer Rebates, Sales Spiffs, and Customer Service."

"York is thankful to be associated with Danny Roberts Heating and Air and would like to thank them for their great and loyal service over the years."

After the Storm

As the spring storm season approaches, Rudy Moore, McNairy County emergency management director, reminds people of the increased electrocution risks that storms and flooding can cause, and offers safety tips to avoid serious injury or death when dealing with the aftermath of a major storm or disaster.

“The danger does not end when the storm does,” says Moore. “People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It’s wise to be cautious in any clean-up effort.”

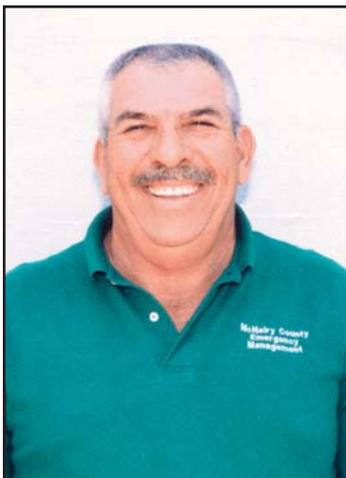
Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it’s raining or the ground is wet or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

“Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off,” says Moore. “Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can’t reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter or transformer.”

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

“Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks,” said Moore. “Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back



Rudy Moore
McNairy County emergency
management
director

into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.”

If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And, if you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect any appliance directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines — what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power. Keep your back-up generator in good condition and test it periodically.

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 that includes a disaster supply kit. This kit should include a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day); food that won’t spoil; one change of clothing and footwear per person; a first aid kit that includes 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 Pickwick Electric Cooperative knows about these needs and have a back-up source of power ready if the power does go out. 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.



Use generators responsibly

- Be sure to notify Pickwick Electric Cooperative if you plan to use a generator.
- Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.
- Use a permanently installed transfer switch or plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Know how to use your generator properly. Read all the information on installation and safety and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing.
- Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from direct exposure to rain and snow — preferably under a canopy, open shed or carport.
- Have a qualified electrician hook up your emergency generator.



John DiChiara represents PEC at national meeting

John DiChiara of McNairy Central High School recently returned from San Diego, Calif., where he served on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) during its 2005 annual meeting Feb. 28-March 2.

Representing Tennessee and sponsored by Pickwick Electric Cooperative, DiChiara joined young people from 44 other states in assisting the national trade association conduct its annual meeting, which drew more than 12,000 electric co-op leaders from around the country. In addition to performing specific jobs at the big event, YLC members have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of national energy issues affecting electric cooperatives and the consumers they serve.

DiChiara worked at the NRECA Congressional Action Center, encouraging delegates to contact their senators and U.S. representatives on key co-op issues, including protecting electricity consumers.

Other typical YLC duties included providing assistance to NRECA staff, attending the NRECA board of directors meeting and working in the YLC information booth for all annual meeting attendees. The YLC was a central part of the opening general session

ceremony, which showcased Youth Leadership Council members carrying their state name flags to the stage during the Parade of Flags. The YLC was the focus of another plenary session during which each YLC member was introduced to the assembled delegates.

DiChiara said he had the experience of a lifetime while working with peers and the NRECA staff during the annual meeting. "I can't believe all of the people I met and all of the memories I will keep forever. I've learned so much about the electric co-op industry and how important it is to our future," he said.

The YLC is an extension of the Rural Electric Youth Tour, a group of more than 1,300 high school students who are sponsored jointly by NRECA, local electric cooperatives and their statewide associations in 44 states. The Youth Tour meets in Washington, D.C., in June of each year, and students visit with their state delegations in both the U.S. House and Senate, attend educational seminars and visit historical landmarks. Each state attending the Youth Tour selects a representative for the YLC. The YLC then attends a week-long summer Leadership Conference back in Washington, D.C., where they take courses on leadership and how to write and



John DiChiara

deliver speeches. A national spokesperson is selected during the Leadership Conference to address the NRECA annual meeting and the Youth Tour delegates the following summer in the nation's capital.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives such as Pickwick Electric Cooperative, which provide electric service to more than 37 million people in 47 states.

Install electric water heater and receive rebate

If you need to replace your water heater, consider installing an electric unit. Why? Because electric water heaters generally use less energy than fossil-fuel types. Gas-fired heaters cannot be insulated on the bottom, where the major heat exchange takes place between the gas flame and the metal tank. Electric water heaters have the advantage of being fully insulated on the top, bottom and sides. That means you typically lose less heat when the unit is in standby. Therefore, the energy utilized in heating your water is used more efficiently,

and less of your water-heating dollars are wasted.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative will pay a \$50 rebate when a customer replaces an electric water heater with a new electric water heater. Replace a gas water heater with a new electric water heater and receive a \$100 rebate. If you build a new all-electric home and install an electric water heater, you will be eligible for a \$100 rebate. Install an electric water heater in a new gas-heated home and receive \$50. For details, call 645-3411, extension 223 or 224.