

# EMPOWERED

For the members of *Central Electric Cooperative*

## CELEBRATING HEROES

*Veterans recognized at Central's campus and Fall Aware meetings*

Central Electric Cooperative made November a month-long celebration to honor the men and women of our armed forces. Employees organized a Veterans Day Memorial as a way to recognize all who have served. Members and employees were encouraged to write the name of a veteran on a tag that was attached to an American flag.

The flags were placed on Central's lawn on Nov. 9 and remained through the Veterans Day holiday. Members also submitted photos of veterans with connections to Central that were featured on Central's social media and the marquee sign on Highway 177.

The recognition continued at Central's Aware meetings. The purpose of Aware meetings is to provide an open forum to discuss the status of the utility industry and the cooperative and take time to answer member questions. Central hosts Aware meetings each Fall. This year's meetings were held in Stroud and Stillwater.

Central's board president, Bill Davis and vice president, Raymond Nettles asked veterans to stand and be recognized at the meetings. Veterans were thanked for their service and given an American flag lapel pin. A short video was played and the veterans were applauded for their service.

We appreciate all members who attended the Aware meetings and helped celebrate our veterans.



*Employees create a veterans' memorial on the lawn of Central Electric Cooperative.*



*Veterans stand to be recognized at Central Electric Cooperative's Fall Aware meetings.*

**Central Board of Trustees:**

Bill Davis, President (District 7)  
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*Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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**Safety First**

Space heaters can work wonders on the coldest winter days to warm rooms that your central heating system doesn't keep comfortable. But users still should take precautions to ensure these cozy heaters don't become fire hazards. Check your space heaters for a UL seal, and follow these guidelines for safely using them:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from drapes and furniture that could catch fire.
- Don't use extension cords or power strips with space heaters.
- Place your heater on a flat, level surface. Don't place heaters on furniture, as they may fall and break or even start a fire.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don't use it in wet areas.

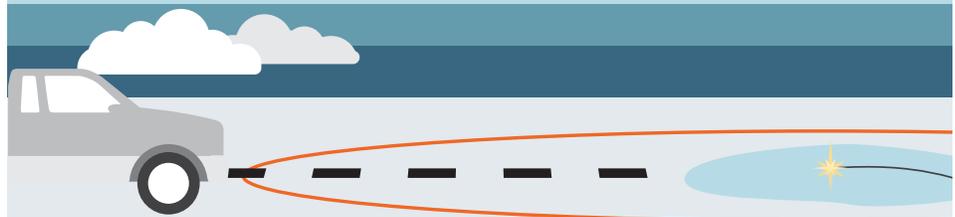
FOR MORE TIPS, VISIT MYCENTRAL.COOP

# DOWNED AND DANGEROUS

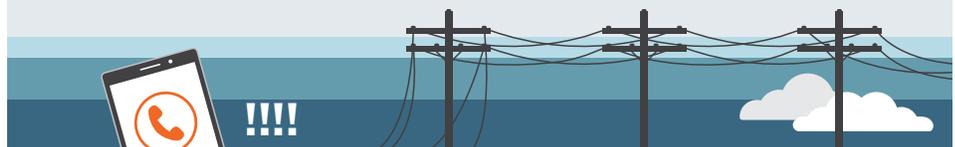
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: ESFI.org

# RESTORING POWER

*When winter storms cause widespread outages, here's how Central restores power*

**W**hen electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Central Electric Cooperative line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

Here is what is going on if you find yourself in the dark.

## **1 – High-Voltage Transmission Lines**

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## **2 – Distribution Substation**

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

## **3 – Main Distribution Lines (Feeders)**

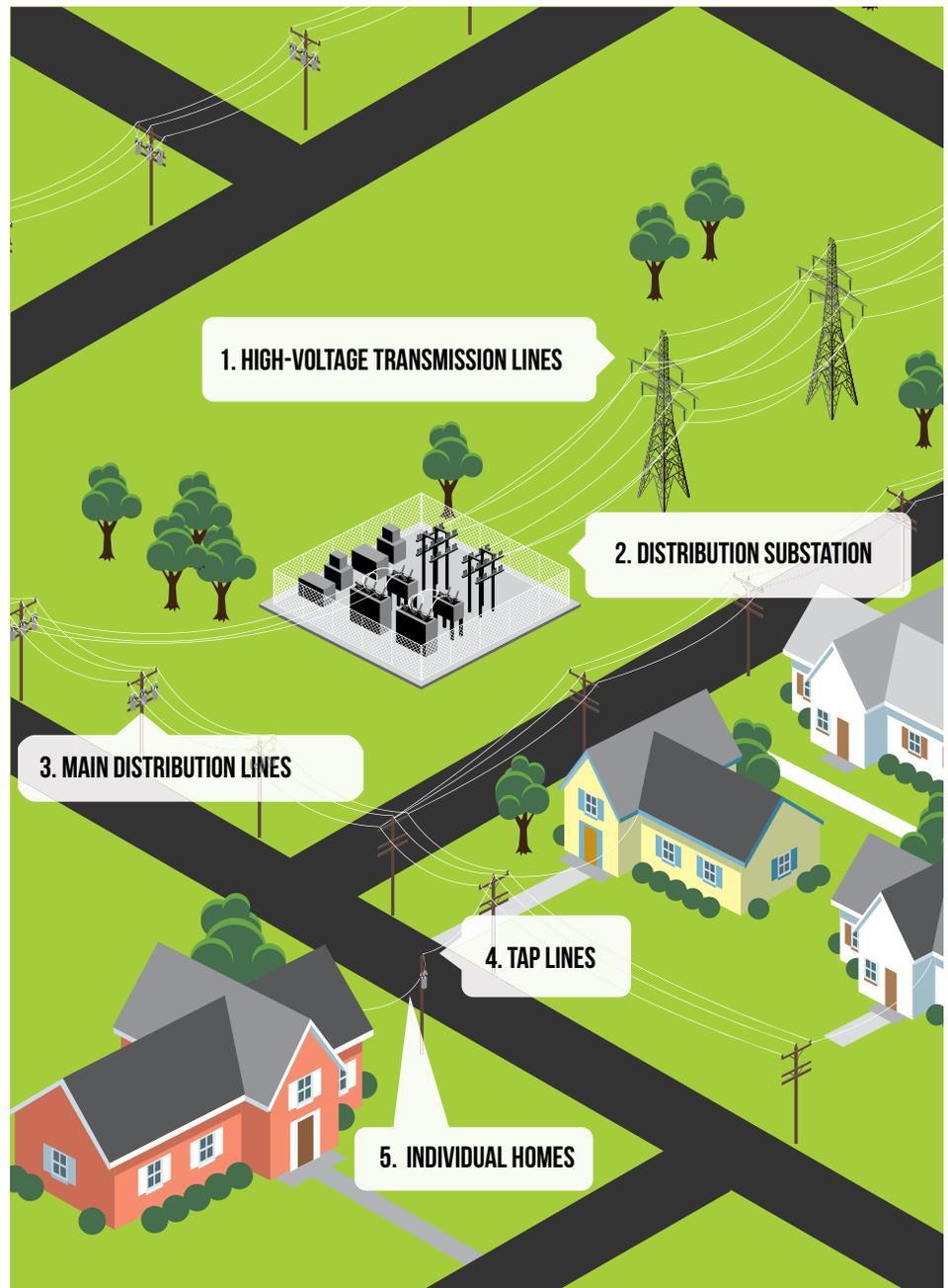
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## **4 – Tap Lines**

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

## **5 – Individual Homes**

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call 800-375-2884 or go online to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



**Central Electric Cooperative is continually monitoring the weather, and crews are on call 24 hours a day. When an outage is reported, you can be assured that a crew is on its way. Reporting an outage is very important. Call 800-375-2884 to report an outage by phone. You can also report an outage using SmartHub App on your smart phone or by visiting, <http://mycentral.smarthub.coop>.**



# ENERGY TRAILS

## *Central Electric Cooperative Lineman Helps Electrify Guatemalan Villages*

For the first time, the lights are on at Pie de Cerro and Tierra Blanca Salinas in rural Guatemala. Oklahoma's electric cooperatives – in partnership with Colorado's electric cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's philanthropic arm, NRECA International – brought first time electricity to two remote villages near the Mexican border in the region of Ixcán, Guatemala.

Fifteen volunteer linemen, including Michael Musil of Central Electric Cooperative, spent three weeks at the project site building powerlines and wiring 100 homes, two elementary schools, two health centers and five churches. The project consisted of 130 poles in approximately 4.34 miles of

primary line, 3.86 miles of secondary line and four 25 kVa transformers were installed by the linemen. Each home received four lightbulbs, four light switches and four electrical outlets.

The volunteers were assisted by a local municipal electric utility, Empresa Rural Municipal de Electricidad (EMRE) based in Playa Grande. EMRE will maintain the powerlines and distribute power to the remote area.

The locals live in extreme poverty conditions without running water, plumbing and food refrigeration. The villagers depend on farming operations for economic sustainment; they produce corn, beans, cardamom seeds, cocoa and some vegetables.

Central's employees and board of trustees were supportive of Musil's participation in the project.

"We are very proud of Michael for selflessly giving of his time for an extended period of time to help our neighbors in Central America," said Bill Davis, Central Board President. "This is a powerful way to display one of the cooperatives' core principles, 'Concern for Community,' at home and across the borders."

Electric cooperatives have a long-standing tradition of bringing lights where there are none. Eighty-plus years ago, cooperatives brought power to rural America and its countryside; given its origins, electric co-ops are willing

and well positioned to help other areas that do not have access to electric power.

“Bringing electricity to remote areas in developing countries takes electric cooperatives back to their roots,” says Chris Meyers, general manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. “It reinforces our commitment to improve the quality of life for local communities at home and abroad. Access to electricity will bring economic empowerment, better access to health care and education and enhanced safety for these villagers. It’s a life-changing gift.”

This is the third project sponsored by Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives. The first project took place in 2016 in the country of Bolivia with the electrification of two villages; the second project electrified a small village in rural Guatemala, near the border with Belize, and this year’s project brought first-time access to electricity to two villages. Collectively, Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives have made possible 536 first-time electric connections in five villages in Central America and South America.



Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives have established a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, The Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, to support this cause. All contributions are tax-deductible.

To learn more, visit:  
<http://tinyurl.com/energytrails>



Members of the Energy Trails team celebrate with locals as the first lights are energized.



Musil said the highlight of his trip was getting to interact with the villages’ children.



More than eight miles of line was built by hand during the three-week trip.



With the help of members and employees, Central Electric Cooperative collected and donated 777 lbs of food to the Stillwater Junior Service League's Harvest II food drive. The food drive distributed a grand total of 40,155 lbs to food pantries across Payne County. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

# INCREASE EFFICIENCY DURING WINTER

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

A cold winter can bring an equally cold reality: higher heat bills. This winter, keep your costs and energy use as low as possible by following these winter efficiency tips:

- Have a heating system checkup and change your filter every month or two during winter.
- Make sure there's plenty of insulation in attics and crawl spaces. Check the ductwork that's in your basement or attic. Air leaks in ducts can account for about 20 to 30 percent of wasted heat. If there are leaks or holes in your ducts, use sealant or metal tape.
- Check for gaps and air leaks around doors, windows, outlets, etc. Seal these areas with caulk, sealant, weather stripping, etc.
- Use a programmable thermostat to set your temperature lower when you're away to prevent energy waste from heating an empty house. Using a programmable thermostat can help you save about \$180 each year.
- Leave space around heating registers so warm air can easily enter the area.
- Consider replacing older heating equipment with newer, more efficient systems.
- A space heater can help increase the temperature of a room rather than cranking up the heat to warm the entire house. By using a space heater, you can turn down your thermostat and place less demand on your furnace.
- Keep curtains open to let direct sunlight heat the home during daylight hours. Remember to close your curtains in the evening to reduce drafts.
- Turn your water heater down to the "warm" setting, or to about 120 degrees, to cut back on the energy waste and reduce the likelihood of scalds. Water heating consumes a higher percentage of heating costs than you might think, nearly a fifth.

For additional information on energy efficiency, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS:

# WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP

## to YOUTH TOUR

# WASHINGTON, D.C.

OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

## JUNE 14-20, 2019



## 2019 TOPIC:

Imagine life 10 years from now. What does energy use look like? What technologies do you see impacting energy use?

To enter, complete the application and submit your essay or video by **Friday, February 15, 2019**. Full details and a downloadable application are available on Central's website at [MyCentral.coop/Community/Youth-programs.aspx](http://MyCentral.coop/Community/Youth-programs.aspx).

## EMPOWERED Classifieds

Submit your free classified ad by e-mail to [editor@MyCentral.coop](mailto:editor@MyCentral.coop) or by mail to PO Box 1809, Stillwater, OK 74076

### SERVICES

Dr. Myers Chiropractic – Luther  
 • Real “Hands-on” physical adjustment \$35 total office visit.  
 • Truck Driver DOT health card \$75.  
 • Truck Driver DOT drug test \$45.  
 • Truck Driver DOT alcohol test \$45.  
 • Truck Owner FMCSA (DOT) Compliant Randomized Drug Testing Program (Consortium)  
 Call 405-277-3325

### SERVICES

Operation Catnip Stillwater: Free spay/neuter/vaccination clinics for stray/feral/barn cats. Humane traps & instructions provided. 7 clinics held each year. Call 405-312-4006 or visit [operationcatnip.okstate.edu](http://operationcatnip.okstate.edu) for dates & information. Also visit Operation Catnip Stillwater Facebook page.  
 \$\$ MINERALS \$\$ Still paying top dollar for O & G Minerals. Let's talk 405-206-9394

### SERVICES

INSTALLATION SERVICES: Replacement windows, Fencing, Decks, Siding, Roofing, and Generac whole house generators. Bonded and insured. CALL DOUG 405-714-5984  
 Thinking about selling your Home, Land Or Personal Property? Let Pickens Auction Be your next step. Call Gregg Pickens 405-533-2600 • Serving Oklahoma Family's For Three Generation

### SUBMIT YOUR AD

Central members can submit your free classified ad by e-mail to [editor@MyCentral.coop](mailto:editor@MyCentral.coop). Classifieds may also be mailed to PO Box 1809, Stillwater, OK 74076. Ads will be edited for space.

# PATRONAGE CAPITAL

*A benefit of being a consumer-member of Central Electric Cooperative*

Central Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. Being not-for-profit, any margins (profits made after expenses are paid) are returned to the members in the form of patronage capital. As shown in the chart, Central has returned approximately \$6 million in patronage capital back to you, our consumer-members over the past five years.

This year, Central is retiring patronage capital from the years 1990 and 1991. You will see a credit on your December bill if you were a member in those years. Patronage capital is just one of the many benefits of being a consumer-member of Central Electric Cooperative.

