COOPERATIVE NEWS





Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed April 7 in observance of Good Friday. Our best wishes to all of you for a blessed Easter! As always, PVEC dispatchers will be on duty throughout the holiday weekend to take your emergency calls.

Fiber Update Info

Miles of backbone – 1,801 Services installed to the home – 5,918

CONTACT US

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> Office Hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

General Manager Brad Coppock

Director of Operations

Travis Tolliver

Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton

Sneedville Area Supervisor
Joey Southern

Tazewell Area Supervisor

Tyler DeBusk

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hat do lightning and squirrels have in common? While this may sound like the setup for a silly joke, it is a very real question, and the answer might surprise you. Lightning and squirrels cause many of the power outages on our electric system.

Our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative works very hard to avoid power outages, but, despite our best efforts, they do occur from time to time. You might find it interesting to know the most common causes of power outages:

Mother Nature. The top three troublemakers to electric reliability are trees falling on power lines and other interferences from vegetation, lightning strikes and animals going about their daily routines — especially squirrels that chew on electrical equipment.

Our neighbors. With thousands of poles along the side of the road, outages caused by car accidents bringing down electrical infrastructure are nearly unavoidable. However, other humancaused outages are entirely avoidable. Nationally there has been an uptick in incidences of vandals deliberately damaging electrical equipment.

You trust our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to keep the lights on, and that is a responsibility we take very seriously. We know that power interruptions, even momentary ones, can create significant issues for your



family, and that is why we are looking at our system with fresh eyes and focusing on reliability.

The cooperative continues to invest in the right-of-way program, which keeps vegetation away from power lines and other important equipment.

Our power system is part of a much larger grid, so we are also working with our power supplier, the Tennessee Valley Authority, to ensure that our community has the energy we need when we need it.

Finally, I cannot talk about reliability without mentioning our dedicated employees at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative who work day in and day out to keep the power flowing and spring into action to get it back on if it goes out. I am honored to work alongside people who take such great pride in what they do.

When your lights come on with the flip of the switch, our line crews, system operators, engineers and support staff deserve a ton of credit.

If you have concerns about the reliability of your power, please contact your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office.

Summer Peak

Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Demand charges set during the 60-minute period influence the wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the summer peak months.

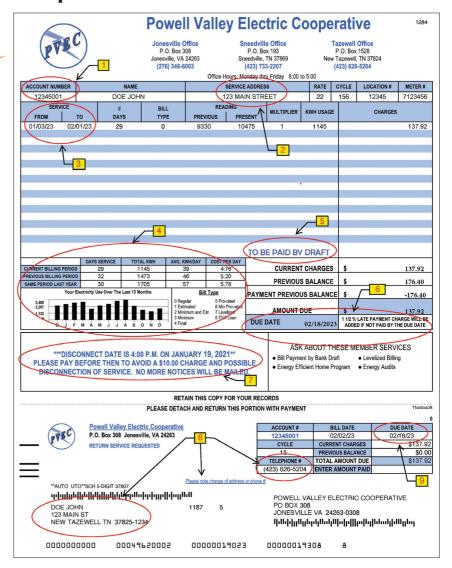
The summer peak months, April through October, are here. Below are some tips for these months to help lower the peak and not change our way of life. Summer peaks are most likely to occur on the hottest days in the late afternoon between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. when families turn up the A/C to keep cool.



WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

- 1. Turn your thermostat up a degree or two between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
- 2. Use major appliances such as washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers before 3 p.m. or after 6 p.m.
- 3. Delay using hot water as much as possible until after 6 p.m. Wait awhile before washing those dishes.
- 4. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.
- 5. Close window shades and drapes to help keep heat out during the peak hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sample Electric Bill



Shown here is an example of a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative monthly bill. We have explained some important sections, and, as always, if you have any questions concerning your bill, contact your local PVEC office.

- Account number: To help identify your account.
- **2. Service address:** The 911 address for this location.
- **3. Meter reading dates:** These are the days of service for which your bill is calculated. The current bill due is based on the previous month's use.
- **4.** Energy use comparison: This table compares the current bill with the previous month's bill and the same billing period last year. Key information includes days of service and average kilowatt-hours used per day.
 - 5. Additional information: TO BE PAID BY

- DRAFT Your account will be automatically drafted on the due date. Other messages that can appear on this line are: FINAL BILL Account is inactive; CR BALANCE DO NOT PAY Credit balance exists and no payment is required as of the billing date; LEVELIZED Account is on average balance program.
- **6.** Late payment charge: the account will be charged a 1.5% late payment penalty if payment is made after the due date.
- **7. Disconnect date:** The account will be charged a \$10 processing fee and is subject to disconnection if payment is made after 4 p.m. on this date. NO further notices will be mailed.
- 8. Please notify us if your address or telephone number has changed.
- **9. Due date:** A payment made after this date will negatively affect your credit with Powell Valley Electric.

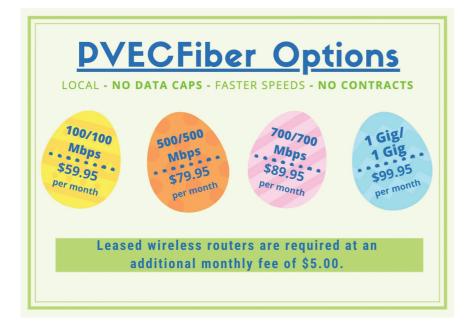


PVEC Visits Claiborne High School

On Feb.22, Tazewell Area Supervisor Tyler DeBusk, Fiber Crew Leader David Smith and Member Services Representative Kelsey Bryant visited Claiborne High School. They spoke to students in the Workforce Training class about cooperative history and the different careers at the cooperative. Students learned about the functions of a cooperative and the many different aspects of electric and fiber linework. We hope that PVEC's presentation helps these bright students when making their upcoming career choices.



From left, PVEC's David Smith, Kelsey Bryant and Tyler DeBusk at Claiborne High School.



Safety Tips

Tyler DeBusk Tazewell Area Supervisor



You probably peel
the lint out of your
clothes dryer's lint trap after every
load of laundry. But that's not enough
to keep the appliance from posing a
fire hazard for your home.

Add a few more maintenance checks to your laundry day routine, including:

- Notice how long it takes the dryer to dry your clothes. It they're still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle, or if it's starting to take longer to dry clothes, your lint screen or exhaust duct is probably blocked.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct at least once a year. The duct is the coil that sends the hot dryer air to the outdoors. The vent is the hole where the hot air leaves the house. Both can get clogged with lint and overheat, sending dirty, moist air back into your home or even catching on fire. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.
- Sweep behind your dryer regularly. Lint can accumulate there and also underneath. Move the dryer and clean the back of it. This might be a job for a service technician rather than for a do-it-yourselfer.
- If your exhaust duct is plastic or foil, replace it with a rigid or corrugated, semi-rigid metal duct. Plastic and foil are too flexible and trap lint easily. They're also easier to crush, which will prevent air from flowing through to the vent.
- Avoid throwing gasoline-, oil- or chemical-soiled clothes and towels into the dryer. Instead, wash them several times and line-dry them. If you have to use the dryer for them, choose the lowest setting, and remove them the minute the cycle is finished. Even washed-and-dried clothes that have come into contact with volatile chemicals can ignite. Best bet: Consider the clothes ruined and safely dispose of them.

Get Your House Ready for Spring

It won't be too long until you can open the windows and start enjoying fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are five items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

- 1. Call a qualified service technician to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying \$100 or so now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment.
- 2. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.
- 3. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.
- 4. Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old windows.
- 5. Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.



f you were asked to associate an image or person with Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, chances are you would think of a lineworker. Our lineworkers are the most visible employees of the co-op, and their jobs are not easy. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10, we thought we'd give you a glimpse into the work of a lineworker.

Did you know that "lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States? Lineworkers perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines, often times in storms, snow, and other challenging conditions. These dedicated employees work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power.

Being a lineworker does not require a college degree. However, it does require years of training and hands-on learning. A journeyman lineworker can have more than 7,000 hours of training to build the technical skills and safety practices needed for this line of work.

Being a lineworker is not just a job — it's a lifestyle. Lineworkers must be ready to leave their families and homes to restore power during severe weather events, and they don't return home until the job is done. Because of this, the lineworker's family is also dedicated to the service.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping our homes and businesses energized 24/7, 365 days a year. They are essential to the life of our community. Without these hardworking men and women, we would not have the reliable electricity needed for everyday life. On Lineworker Appreciation Day, and every day, we thank them for their service.