

My HOMETOWN POWER

**MURFREESBORO
ELECTRIC**
DEPARTMENT



Make safety a habit

P.D. Mynatt
General Manager

We often forget about the potential for danger that exists around us. A beautiful tree might fall as a result of a spring storm, bringing powerlines to the ground and creating risk for everyone. And even the most vigilant lineman faces danger when completing repairs that often require working with energized power lines or other electrical equipment.

But other dangers associated with electricity are more subtle, made so since most of us can't remember a time when we didn't have the convenience of electricity or the myriad of technologies made possible by electric power. Electricity is everywhere in our world, which makes it all the more important to know how to be safe around it.

For utilities across the country, May is Electrical Safety Month. While safety is always the #1 priority at Murfreesboro Electric Department, we want to take this opportunity to put an extra emphasis on safe electric habits.

That's why in this month's newsletter you can find out about some of the steps we take to make sure all of our employees have the training they need to work safely. You can also learn about our top suggestions for keeping you and your family safe around electricity and electrical appliances.

I hope you will all take a moment to learn about electric safety this month and teach your family the importance of responsible electric habits. By working together and promoting awareness, we can safely enjoy the benefits of electric power. ●

Electric safety should be a priority

Electricity is indispensable, powering the modern technology we use daily. But for all its benefits, electricity can still pose a danger to anyone who becomes complacent.

At Murfreesboro Electric Department, ensuring the safety of our employees and customers is our top priority. Regular training is one of the most important tools we use to keep both indoor and outdoor workers safe.

Murfreesboro Electric contracts with Tennessee Job Training and Safety to conduct safety meetings monthly for our employees. The sessions cover topics ranging from the proper use of personal protective equipment to ladder safety.

"Every year we do a session that covers things like our Emergency Action Plan, how to handle a blood-borne pathogen or any hazardous chemicals people might come in contact with," says

Brian Sharp, Assistant Safety Director. "That's a meeting all of our employees attend."

Murfreesboro Electric also takes care to build and install system components in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code. This involves keeping equipment like transformers grounded to make sure employees and the general public are not at risk if they come in contact with them.

SAFETY 101

As part of our dedication to customer safety, Sharp also takes part in career days and puts on safety presentations at schools and organizations throughout the city. One of his favorite stories to tell students is how, as a kid, he and his friends would use a transformer as base when they would play hide-and-seek.

"That was a terrible idea," he says. "Even though we ground that equipment, you should never take a chance

with electricity. So it's best to keep kids away from electric transformers or any of our infrastructure."

Sharp also reminds customers that if they want to connect a personal generator to their home's electric system, they should always hire a licensed professional. Improperly installed generators can pose a risk to linemen and others.

"If your power is out and you turn on a generator that isn't hooked up properly, it can feed back onto our primary lines," he says. "If we have a wire down, that generator could energize it, and anyone who walks by is in danger."

If you or your organization would like to schedule a safety presentation from Murfreesboro Electric, please contact Amy Byers at AByers@medtn.com. For more electric safety tips, visit the Kids Zone on the Murfreesboro Electric website. ●

17TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to all the community members and sponsors who made the 17th Annual Earth Day Celebration a success. The theme this year was "Extreme weather! Stay aware and be prepared."



MURFREESBORO ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT CHANGING OFFICE HOURS

Beginning July 1, 2018, the Murfreesboro Electric Department office will be opening for business at **7:30 a.m.** and closing at **4:30 p.m.**

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

In May, we recognize the more than 400,000 children and youth in the foster care system. Find a way you can give back to your community by fostering, adopting, volunteering or mentoring.

Foster a little hope.

Learn more. Call today.

Youth VILLAGES
The force for families

615-250-7329

YouthVillages.org/foster



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