

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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814-766-3221  
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## From the General Manager/CEO



# Celebrate this Independence Day

By Mark Morrison

EACH JULY, we celebrate Independence Day. Our celebrations this year may look a bit different than those of previous years. The past few months have been quite unusual for all. I hope you all are remaining safe and healthy through these unprecedented times.

Over the past few months, I have noticed a change in our lifestyles and must wonder if there is any good coming from us being forced to hit the “pause” button. It took these extreme measures for me to realize how important small local businesses are to our communities. The speed of our lives sometimes makes everything except price a blur as we shop for what we need daily.

My family took a little more notice of the changes in our community throughout this ordeal. Typically, Friday nights were enjoyed as a family dinner at a local restaurant. Often, our evening turned into mini reunions with friends we had not seen in a while, but mostly it was a good time to wrap up the week with my gang away from cellphones, other social and work obligations, and to-do list items pushing the pace of life so fast that we miss or take for granted blessings that are right under our noses. It did not take long to miss those Friday night dinners. Take-out was just not the same.

As time went on and restrictions became stricter, our family stayed home a little more, hiked and biked local trails, went metal detecting, and completed home projects that had been left undone, as well as a number of other things that had always been pushed back for something else. Our neighborhood

came together as well. We visited with each other a little more, we volunteered to deliver meals to the elderly and veterans for local restaurants, and we enjoyed not having to rush anywhere.

Now, as restrictions are easing and we are not pressured to consider enjoying our freedom, I cannot help but realize how important our community is to each of us. The big mail order and big box stores seemed to play by a different set of rules along the way, and in many cases, our neighbors with small businesses played by the rules where they were forced to rely on government to take care of them.

So the next time you are at that Little League field, the high school football game, Saturday morning breakfast, or the county fair, take notice of the banners on the fence, on the scoreboard, the advertisements on the placemat and the banners in the show ring. These are the folks that have battled through this crisis; these are the folks that need us most in times like this. These are the folks that are the economic engine in our community. So, price is not the only consideration as we deal with life. Local service, a community presence and heart are what make a difference for all of us wherever our neighborhood is. Enjoy your Independence Day holiday celebrating the freedoms that are ours as citizens of this amazing country. Celebrate with your neighbors and your community. As always, feel free to stop in or give us a call to let us know how we are doing.

Mark

# Enjoy water recreation safely

ELECTRICITY is essential energy — it keeps us cool in the summer, lights our house, keeps the refrigerator cold, and runs the TV, stereo, and computers. However, water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Whether it's swimming, boating, or fishing, Safe Electricity reminds everyone to avoid electrical hazards during water recreation.

## Swimming pools and hot tubs

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are one form of protection from electrical hazards. GFCIs detect dangerous situations where a shock may occur and cut off power to prevent shock. Any situation where electricity is used near water is a shock hazard. You should have GFCI protection on underwater lighting circuits, lighting around pools, and hot tubs and spas. Safe Electricity offers the following tips to stay safe in or around swimming pools:

- ▶ Build pools and decks at least 5 feet away from all underground electric lines and at least 25 feet away from overhead electric lines.
- ▶ Do not put electrical appliances within 10 feet of a swimming pool. When practical, use battery-operated appliances near swimming pools.
- ▶ Any electric outlets within 20 feet of a pool should have a GFCI.
- ▶ If a swimmer is in the water and feels electricity or appears to be shocked, don't dive in, or you could be shocked as well. Turn off the power and then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.
- ▶ Never swim during a thunderstorm. When you leave the pool, don't change the radio station or touch any electrical appliances until you are dry — never touch any electrical appliances when you are wet or standing in water. If children wish to play with sprinklers or hoses, emphasize they should be set up well away from appliances. Usually, if potential safety hazards are considered and handled

proactively, accidents and deaths can be avoided.

## Lakes and rivers

Electricity and water are dangerous around larger bodies of water. If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with electrical service.

Check for the location of power lines before fishing. Make sure you are casting the line far away from power lines to avoid contact.

Contact between your boat and a power line could be devastating. Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet

between your boat and nearby power lines to be safe.

If your boat comes in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water — the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line.

Your boat's wiring should comply with American Boat and Yacht Council Standards. Have work done by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes and standards.

Dock electrical systems should be installed, and then inspected annually by professionals familiar with marine codes and include ground fault (GFCI) protection. ⚡

**ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING**  
UNKNOWN DANGER LURKING IN THE WATER

Docks and boats carry sources of **electricity**. Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices can cause the surrounding water to be become **energized**. NEVER swim near a marina or a near a boat while it's running.

There is **no visible warning** to electrified water.

Electric current in the water causes the **paralysis of muscles** which results in **drowning**.

The 2017 NEC now **requires** marinas and boatyards to have **ground-fault protection** to help prevent water electrification. Check to see if your marina, and the boats in the marina, have proper **GFCI protection**.

As little as **10 milliamps**, 1/50th the amount used by a 60 watt light bulb, can cause **paralysis and drowning**.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE**

- Turn power **off**
- Throw a **life ring**
- Call **911**
- NEVER enter the water**

**WARNING — POTENTIAL SHOCK HAZARD: ELECTRICAL CURRENTS MAY BE PRESENT IN THE WATER**

The 2017 National Electrical Code **requires** marinas and boat docks to post electric shock **warning signs** where electricity is used **near water**.

## Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) re-opens

The county assistance offices are now open for LIHEAP.

For members who have received crisis LIHEAP assistance during the 2019/2020 season:

- ▶ You have received a \$100 supplement, which was on your June billing statement.
- ▶ Call your county assistance office to let them know if you are in need of help. You may be eligible for more assistance.

Members who have not received crisis assistance:

- ▶ Go to the following website to complete your application: [www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome). Look under the “What We Offer” tab for your LIHEAP application. You will need to complete the form and mail it to your county assistance office (information listed below). If you don’t have internet or a printer, call New Enterprise REC. We will mail you a form. Should you wish to stop at the office, please call first.
- ▶ If you applied for LIHEAP funds and

were denied due to income limits, re-apply. You may now be eligible because of a decrease in wages due to COVID-19.

- ▶ New claims can be eligible for up to \$800.

### Bedford CAO – LIHEAP

150 North Street  
Bedford, PA 15522-1040  
814-623-6127 or 800-542-8584

### Fulton CAO – LIHEAP

539 Fulton Drive  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233-8061  
717-485-3151 or 800-222-8563

### Huntingdon CAO – LIHEAP

7591 Lake Raystown Shopping Center  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
814-643-1170 or 800-237-7674



## Life-sustaining equipment

FOR SOME electric cooperative members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. New Enterprise REC realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power. Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, outages occur due to unpredictable acts such as severe weather, animal interference, broken tree limbs, fire or accidents.

If your health or the health of someone in your household depends on electricity, we offer the following suggestions and strongly encourage you to implement them:

- ▶ Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer of your equipment you have in your home. For example, battery back-ups or standby generators can provide you with electric power if service from the cooperative is interrupted.
- ▶ Talk with relatives or friends today

and devise a plan whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a power outage.

- ▶ Let New Enterprise REC know of the situation. Call the office for a Life-Sustaining Equipment Form. This form must be completed by your physician.
- ▶ By having this form on file, your account will be marked as having life-sustaining equipment. Even though your account is marked, this does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service during an outage.
- ▶ Mail, fax or email your Life-Sustaining Equipment Form to:

New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op  
c/o Bobbi McClain  
3596 Brumbaugh Rd  
New Enterprise, PA 16664  
Fax: 814-766-4607  
Email: [bmclain@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bmclain@newenterpriserec.com)

### ATTENTION: property owners

Rental properties should always be in the renters’ names, not the property owners. We recommend property owners do not give the tenants the keys until they have transferred the account into their names. Owners are welcome to call the office to ensure this has been done. Should a renter move in without changing the account over, you, the landlord, are responsible for the bill. If there is an unpaid bill once the renters move out, the owner is liable.

Have your renter call our office a week or so before they are to move in. They will need to have a credit check and complete some paperwork. Once the credit check is ran, it will determine the fees they will need to pay for the account to be in their names.

Should a security deposit be required, it will be returned on their billing statement after they have paid 12 consecutive months of payments in full or if should they move from our service territory.

All fees and paperwork need to be taken care of before we will transfer the account. ☀



REPLACING POLES: Crews are working in the Waterfall Hill area replacing poles. Lineman Kyler Fink is working on tying in the phase wire.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!



## How to check circuit breakers

Parts of your home – including outlets and entire walls – can lose power when circuits are overloaded.

If your power goes out unexpectedly, consider checking your home's circuit breakers before calling to report an outage.

Here's how to do it:

- ▶ Find your electrical panel, or breaker box. Inside, you'll see black switches. These are the circuit breakers.
- ▶ If a circuit breaker is tripped, it may appear to be in the same position as the others, but it won't be pushed fully to the ON position.
- ▶ Find the affected breaker and flip it to the OFF position. If you don't think there is an electrical overload, try flipping the breaker back to the ON position. If you do suspect an electrical overload, unplug any appliances or other items in the area not receiving power, then flip the breaker back to the ON position.
- ▶ Check to see if power is restored. Wait a few seconds, then slowly begin plugging in and turning on the electrical equipment to determine which item is causing the overload. If the circuit trips again when an item is plugged in, that item is causing the overload. Try moving it to a different outlet in your home.

If the circuit continues to trip, or if it won't flip to the ON position, stop trying to reset the breaker. There may be a fault in the circuit, and you'll need to contact a qualified electrician.

When power goes out to an area of your home, it's often just a temporary power surge. You may be able to restore power on your own by simply resetting the breaker.