



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

# SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

## Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Clark Electric Cooperative, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

### Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

### Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems, and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

### Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Clark Electric Cooperative, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional, or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Clark Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.



If you see police, firefighters, utility crews, or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

**Together, we can keep our crews safe.**



## GIVE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER A SPRING TUNE-UP

Spring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. Chances are you welcomed the cooler temperatures when they arrived last fall and turned off your air-conditioning unit without a lot of thought. Now, before you turn it back on again for the season, you'll want to make sure your unit is clean and ready to work properly and efficiently. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

Start by inspecting the outdoor condensing unit. The large outdoor coil—it looks like a car radiator—is where heat is dissipated from your home. The fan in the condensing unit has to move a lot of air through the coil, so make sure there are no airflow restrictions around the unit. Cut nearby grass, shrubs, and branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the side and 5 feet away overhead.

Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is two or three years, depending on how much it operates during the summer. If you use your air condi-

tioner for four months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off the power to the unit and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom. Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or 10 minutes and flush the coil with a gentle wash spray.

Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower is dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. This is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioning coil clean and reduce energy consumption.—Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management, [www.residential-energy.com](http://www.residential-energy.com)

**Contact Greg for a Spring Air Conditioner Maintenance Check-Up TODAY!**

WHY INSTALL A DAIKIN DUCTLESS HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM?

Forget wall-mounted thermostats that can be difficult to program or operate. Daikin systems feature built-in intelligence that allows individual control with the ability to automatically maintain preferences. These systems make subtle and continuous adjustments to ensure your home stays at a constant and comfortable temperature at the touch of a button.



Contact Greg for all of your heating and cooling needs.

**CLARK ELECTRIC APPLIANCE & SATELLITE**  
1209 West Dall-Berg Road, Greenwood

From Greenwood, west on CTH G, south on River Road, and west on Dall-Berg Road  
866-279-6544 or 715-267-6544 • Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## Central Air Incentive Program

To help reduce the demand for electric power during the summer season, Clark Electric Cooperative offers an Air Conditioner Load Management Program Incentive.

Each central air conditioner (AC) unit being managed during a period of high demand is shut off for approximately 15 minutes and then allowed to resume cooling for 20 minutes. This means they are still cooling about half of the time. Many members say they don't even realize the cooperative is managing the unit because they don't notice any temperature change inside the home.

**\$8/month credit on your electric bill during the summer cooling season**

If you have a central air conditioning unit and it is not part of the load management program, consider trying it for a summer.

You will receive a one-time \$25 bill credit after the load management switch is installed on the AC, and then you will see an \$8 credit on your electric bill for the consumption months of June, July, and August. Call Clark Electric Cooperative at 1-800-272-6188 for questions, or to sign up. Certain restrictions may apply.

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER & HONOR

Clark Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

## CLARK ELECTRIC WELCOMES A NEW EMPLOYEE

Jesse Friedenfels joined our operations department as a journeyman lineman the beginning of March. Jesse completed his journeyman studies through the Missouri Valley Line Contractor Program in 2018.

Jesse is from the Owen area where he lives with his wife and two young children. A commonality among linemen is their love for the great outdoors, and this also rings true for Jesse. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family in his spare time.

Please welcome Jesse when you see him in your neighborhood working hard to ensure your power is on when you flip the switch.



HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO

# DIGGERS HOTLINE®

**DIAL 811 OR VISIT: DIGGERSHOTLINE.COM**

**1. NOTIFY**

Notify Diggers Hotline by calling 811 or making an online request 3 business days before work begins. Diggers Hotline will transmit information to affected utility operators.

**2. WAIT**

Wait 3 business days for affected utility operators to respond to your request. On average, between 7-8 utility operators are notified for each request.

**3. CONFIRM**

Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities Diggers Hotline notified.

**4. RESPECT**

Respect the marks. The marks provided by the affected utility operators are your guide for the duration of your project. If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, please contact Diggers Hotline to ask for a relocate.

**5. DIG CAREFULLY**

Dig carefully. If you can't avoid digging near the marks (within 18 inches on all sides), consider moving your project to another part of your yard. If you must dig near the marks no mechanized equipment can be used within 18 inches of the marks; only hand digging is allowed.

## IN BRIEF

### Gas dominates new generation, coal retirements continue

The United States added more than 31 gigawatts of electric generating capacity during 2018 and almost 62 percent of it is fueled by natural gas, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported this week.

An additional 21 percent (6.6 GW) of the new capacity is wind-powered and 16 percent (4.9 GW) is solar.

Meanwhile, coal plant retirements continued, with 12.9 gigawatts going off-line during 2018, the EIA said Monday. The agency noted that the capacity additions last year were the most since 2003, prior to the so-called "Great Recession" reducing and then flattening electricity demand for a prolonged period. That year, 48.8 gigawatts were added.

Wisconsin retired almost two gigawatts of coal capacity last year. Only one nuclear plant, New Jersey's Oyster Creek with a 0.6 GW capacity, shut down in 2018.

Pennsylvania led the way with 4.4 GW of additional generation, all of it gas-fired. Texas led all states in retirements by a wide margin, shutting down 4.3 gigawatts of coal.



# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

*Don't miss the chance to join us for the 2019 Youth Leadership Congress –  
You will get a glimpse of college life at UW-River Falls*



**It's that time of year when Clark Electric Cooperative is looking for students from local high schools to represent us at the Youth Leadership Congress, to be held this year on the campus of UW-River Falls July 24–26, 2019.**

The WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) is a great opportunity for students to develop and enhance their leadership potential. The event is sponsored by UW-River Falls and Wisconsin electric cooperatives and is designed to help students develop leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative business.

The event features leadership seminars lead by nationally acclaimed speakers and presenters. Sessions focus on the structure of the cooperative business, developing leadership skills, team-building exercises, and many other fun activities. Join students from your neighboring schools and learn what makes the cooperative business model different and successful.

Clark Electric has sponsored students to this event since its inception. We believe in developing the potential of tomorrow's leaders. The YLC is a fun and educational event, designed by students who were elected by their peers at the previous year's conference to serve on the WECA Youth Board.

There is no cost to the student for attending. The registration and travel expenses will be covered by the cooperative. If you are going to be a sophomore or a junior in high school this coming fall and would like to be a sponsored representative for Clark Electric Cooperative, contact your FFA or FBLA advisor. You may also contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188.

**NEW!**

**DISCOVER INTERNET WITHOUT LIMITS**

UP TO 30Mbps  
Download Speed

**\$39.99**  
PER MONTH  
\$59.99/mo. after 3 months

 **Clark Electric**  
Appliance & Satellite Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**1-866-279-6544**

**Viasat** 

After 150 GB of data usage, we may prioritize your data behind other customers during network congestion. Minimum 24-month sel<sup>l</sup> Ace term. Equipment lease fee is \$7.95/mo. and taxes apply. Speeds are "up to," are not guaranteed and will vary. Service is not available in all areas. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Viasat is a registered service mark of Viasat, Inc.

## Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437  
email us at [info@cecoop.com](mailto:info@cecoop.com) or [tnelson01@cecoop.com](mailto:tnelson01@cecoop.com)  
[www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)



**Clark Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 