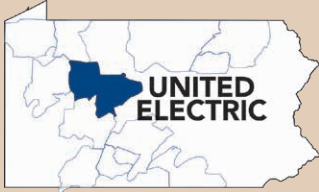




United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 688
DuBois, PA 15801-0688
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www.unitedpa.com
Outage: 800-262-8959
Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Kristy Smith

September is National Preparedness Month



LEN HAWKINS

HOW PREPARED ARE YOU and your family for disasters or emergencies? It's a question everyone should be asking themselves. According to the Centers for Disease Control, only about 46% of people think a natural disaster is likely to happen in their community. Considering recent events in our country, it's time for everyone to assess and prepare for situations like floods, wildfires, tornados, and hurricanes.

Consider taking the following steps to protect yourself and your family:

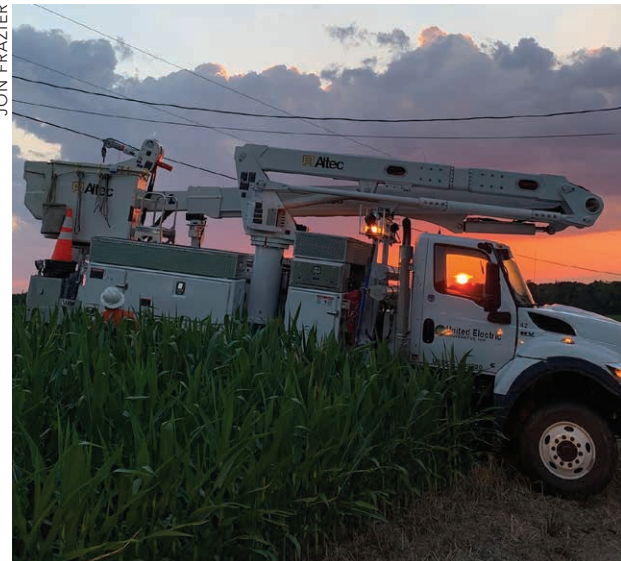
- 1. Prepare an emergency kit.** Keep your kit in an easily accessible location and include non-perishable food, water, a first-aid kit, and items like flashlights and a weather radio.
- 2. Review your family's emergency plan and meeting place.** Don't have one? Now is the time to develop one — and don't forget to include plans for your pets.
- 3. If relying on a generator during an outage, do not operate it inside your home.** Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide and can poison you and your family.
- 4. Know how to contact your local emergency management agency** so you and your family receive updates and information. Don't hesitate to dial 911 if you feel you are in danger.

What goes hand-in-hand with being prepared? Safety. Safety is and should always be the No. 1 priority at work and home. United Electric Cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' and the public's safety above all else. United Electric's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members. Doing this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

United Electric follows the highest national safety standards in every aspect of operations. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, and our cooperative has a safety committee, whose members ensure our focus remains on keeping employees and the community safe. That committee has regular meetings, where the members review all aspects of operations from a safety perspective. The committee also monitors and tracks near-miss accidents and shares lessons learned to improve in the future.

In addition, our cooperative establishes and follows safety

JON FRAZIER



A LONG DAY'S WORK: United Electric Cooperative wants every employee to go home in the same condition they came to work in – or better.

Continued on page 16C

Johnny Appleseed's Legacy for Us

GLENN SCHUCKERS

AMERICANS HAVE A LOT OF FOLK HEROES. Names like Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill come to mind immediately, but they were either created by an author or grew out of a legend. Still, there is one folk hero who grew not out of legend or imagination, but out of an actual person, and that's Johnny Appleseed. I recently discovered that Sept. 26 is National Johnny Appleseed Day, so this is the perfect time and space to talk about a real American hero and celebrate his legacy and birthday.

I thought I knew a lot about Johnny, but as is so often the case, what I knew was but a fraction of what's out there. It was a classic case of not knowing what I didn't know, so I set out to learn more.

Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman, and he was born in 1774 in Leominster, Mass. His father fought in the Revolutionary War and his mother died while giving birth to his brother, Nathaniel, when Johnny was about 2 years old.

Johnny never set out to be any kind of folk hero. In his early life, he was exposed to a religious sect that practiced Swedenborgianism, which was based on the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. It was never a large group, but its teachings were popular with Johnny, who came to value its ideals, which centered on charity, generosity, love of all life, and a respect for nature.

An idea takes root

By the time he was 20, Johnny decided to venture west, which at that time meant western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Because there were very few roads to travel, he followed Native American trails. After learning a few basic facts about apple trees from a nursery in Pennsylvania, he set out to plant orchards as he traveled.

As he planted and tended to apple trees, he gathered seeds from the many cider presses along the frontier. With drinking water often contaminated, early settlers relied on cider as a safe, reliable source of refreshment. Because apples are the basic requirement for cider, apple trees had to be planted.

In addition to being required for cider, apple orchards were valuable for another reason: They enabled settlers to claim free land being given out by the government, which required them to live off the land and tend to it.

Johnny, in addition to being an idealist, was a frontier entrepreneur. He obtained apple seeds for free, used his knowledge to grow trees and then sold them to pioneers

who used the seedlings to secure the land. He would also plant an orchard and make an agreement with the settler to tend to the trees in return for partial ownership of the land.

As anyone who has experimented with planting an apple seed knows, the seeds do not produce the variety of apple from which they came. In other words, planting a seed from a Macintosh apple will not produce a tree that bears more Macintosh apples. Instead, "wild" apple trees produce fruit that is generally very small and almost always very sour. Those qualities account for the nickname of frontier apples as "spitters," which is what anyone who ate them wanted to do with the flesh. Apples were grown merely to be ground up and pressed into cider.

Gratitude, kindness, generosity and simplicity

Now, back to Johnny. The image of him traveling through the frontier is probably pretty accurate. He traveled light, taking only a sack of apple seeds, a walking stick and a cooking pot that doubled as a hat. According to his Swedenborgian teachings, grafting a seedling was forbidden because it caused pain to the trees, so only trees grown from seed were allowed.

At the time, anyone with a cabin was bound to feed and house a traveler who showed up. Because there were no hotels on the frontier, it was the only way people could exist on a journey far from home. In his case, Johnny Appleseed would reward his hosts with either apple seeds or seedlings, depending on what he had with him.

Even though orchards today bear little resemblance to the "orchards" of the 18th century — and the apples themselves bear little resemblance to the apples of that time — the ideals and attitudes from long ago should be timeless. If we were to practice the gratitude, kindness, generosity and simplicity of Johnny Appleseed, we might be happier and more at peace with each other.

I prune my trees each spring to keep the centers open and the spread restricted. I test the soil to see what amendments need to be made to keep the trees healthy. I may not welcome any traveler for breakfast, but I can take a day this month to celebrate an American hero who lived the life of independence, humility and love. This is not the time of year to plant an apple tree, but it might be a good time to ponder the life of Johnny Appleseed.

Happy Johnny Appleseed Day! 🍏

protocols based on leading national practices for the utility industry. United's lineworkers are required to wear specialized equipment when working with power lines and follow specific guidelines when dealing with live lines.

Safety doesn't end at the job site

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of Americans are critically injured each year by electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Please observe the following:

1. Don't attempt do-it-yourself electrical projects or overload your outlets.
2. Steer clear of and report downed power lines and unlocked substations and padmount transformers to United Electric.
3. Never go near or get out of any vehicle that has downed lines on or near it. If you're involved in such an accident, stay in the vehicle and dial 911 immediately.

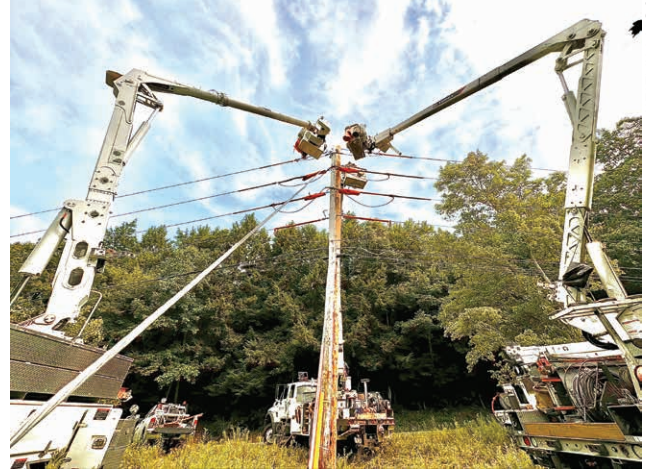


SUBSTATION WORK: United Electric Apprentice Lineman Spencer Pomerleau, left, and Journeyman Lineman Keegan Prisk re-attach connections in the Graham substation during a planned outage. These outages ensure the safety of our employees and members during the line work.

Check out unitedpa.com or safelectricity.org for additional safety tips. United Electric provides electrical safety demonstrations at its office for groups and at community events, if the venues meet safety conditions. Please contact Safety Coordinator Kacie Means at 888-581-8969, ext. 8506, or kmeans@unitedpa.com. 📞

Until next time,

LEN HAWKINS
PRESIDENT & CEO



JON FRAZIER

WORKING TOGETHER: It takes a lot of cooperative personnel working together safely to replace a three-phase pole without creating an outage for members.

LIVE LINE INSTALLATION: Apprentice Lineman Scott Orcutt wears personal protective equipment, also known as PPE, while helping with a live line installation at a commercial member's service.



CARL YEBERNETSKY

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Solar energy is rising in popularity, and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door promising free solar panels at zero cost or that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, do your research, get multiple quotes from licensed providers who are reputable, and most importantly, take your time to ensure a smooth process.

Source: Federal Trade Commission



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



United Electric
COOPERATIVE, INC.

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TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Harvest season brings hard work and can be exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous and even deadly when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away in all directions from power lines.

Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.

Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.

Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.

If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, call 888-581-8969 immediately.

