

Generator safety: Our lives are on the line

The safety of you, our members, and our employees is a top priority at Pickwick Electric Cooperative, especially during dangerous times.

When storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized and that proper switches are opened and tagged to

isolate the circuit from the system. We place grounds to make sure the line cannot be energized while work's being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

The cooperative is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives — and their own — in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.

In 2005, a lineman died in Flomaton, Ala., when he contacted a power line that was energized by an improperly installed generator. Ronnie Adams, 41, of Winterville, Ga., was working to restore power after Hurricane Dennis. He was married and had two teenage children.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a

lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household

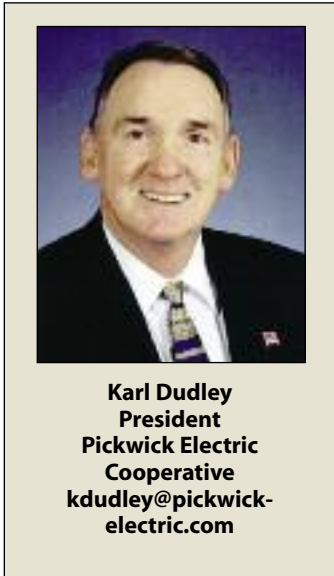
outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them — even if the line seems dead.

Cooperative employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if

they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure each extension cord is free of cuts or



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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of
McNairy County and
portions of Chester,
Hardeman and Hardin
counties in Tennessee and
Alcorn and Tishomingo
counties in Mississippi



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**These five pages contain local
news and information
for members of Pickwick
Electric Cooperative.**



tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.

- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

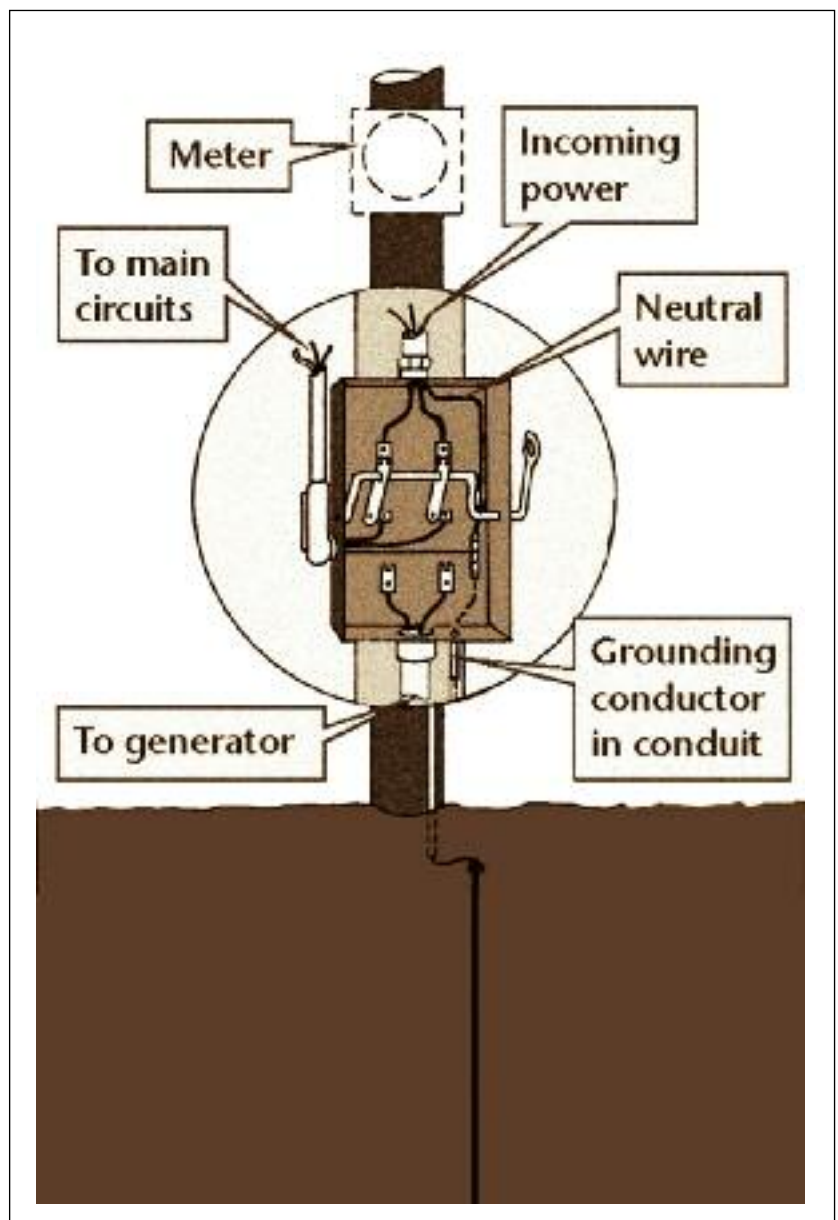
We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

PEC's Auxiliary Generation Policy

The member will not use the Cooperative's electric service in parallel with other electric service. The member will not introduce other electric service on the premises of the member for use in conjunction with or as a supplement to the Cooperative's electric service, without notifying the Cooperative. For the purpose of the policy, electric service of an auxiliary, standby or supplemental nature shall be defined but not limited to diesel, gasoline, or propane generator sets, wind turbines, solar, or hydroelectric sources.

Where approved auxiliary, standby and/or supplemental on-site generation is provided by a member, parallel operation of the member's generating equipment with the Cooperative's system will not be allowed. The member will install all protective devices specified by Local Code Regulations, the National Electric Code, or the National Electric Safety Code, as applicable. A double throw switch must be used to prevent possible injury to the Cooperative's personnel and equipment by making it impossible for power to feed back into the Cooperative's system from the auxiliary, standby, or supplemental generator.

This diagram shows a double throw switch connected to a standby generator.



‘Electric Cooperatives ... Energizing Our Communities’

By Sarah Killingsworth, area winner of Pickwick Electric Cooperative Writing Contest

I am as old as time and thought I would be forever wild. I carve paths of destruction, evoke fear and have a close friend who warns you of my approach. My face is beautiful yet deadly; if you get too close, it could be your end. I am Zeus’ favorite weapon, and many ancient civilizations worshiped me. For centuries no one could harness my power, and I have only grown stronger with time. However, no one can maintain absolute power forever. In 1752, a scientist named Benjamin Franklin realized my potential and gave me a new purpose. I am electricity.

Benjamin realized that I was dangerous, so he invented the lightning rod to protect people from me. He was the first of many inventors to realize my potential. Thomas Edison was the man who created, perhaps, one of the most useful objects of all time — the lightbulb. He agonized over creations and experiments and one day he came up with the idea of an incandescent lamp. After thousands of attempts he succeeded. Edison guided me through a carbonized filament that I heated up until it glowed. He patented the bulb and created hundreds of other revolutionary things. Edison once said, “Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.” As I worked with other inventors throughout the years, they agreed that he spoke the truth.

By the turn of the century, I was only available to large cities. Numerous power companies thought that it was unprofitable to take me to rural areas. A few years later, in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act; this tamed me and allowed me to travel to the countryside for a reasonable price. Over the next few years, Tennesseans formed member-owned electric cooperatives that used their earnings to help with maintenance.

I travel extensively and have met many people. There are countless people in the world striving only for personal gain, but each and every time I flow through a cooperative, I’m struck by how genuine and selfless the people really are. Electric cooperatives are dedicated to helping their

communities be better places. They support many programs such as the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest, Youth Leadership programs, Louie the Lightning Bug safety program, 4-H Electric Camp and many other school activities.

Today, nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives distribute me to 30 million people across the United States.

It’s been said, “With great power comes great responsibility.” This is the motto I live by. Every day I power medical equipment that helps save lives. I make it possible to educate children, teens and even young adults. Because of my existence, thousands of jobs are made possible. However, I am not indestructible. Tornadoes and wind are constantly pushing me aside, but I take comfort in the fact that there is always someone waiting in the wings to help me up if I fall. They hold my arms up when I get tired and encourage me when I want to quit. Who are these super humans? They are members of electric cooperatives, dedicated to ener-

gizing the community.

Late at night, while people are lost in their dreams, I dream, too. In my dream I am a wild cloud-jumper again, and I see a kite flying toward me. I am curious, so I reach out and touch it. The next thing I know, I’m falling through the string that links the kite to the ground. The Earth gets bigger and bigger as I plunge closer and closer to her. Just when the ground is inches away, the metal key at the end of the string catches me. I gaze at the face of an aging man, eyes full of wonder and inspiration, and behind his spectacles I can see his mind working away. For a brief moment, our minds link, and it’s like diving into a wonderland.

I see homes and windows glow with light after sunset, family and friends connected across the country, machines helping and saving lives. I also see cooperatives popping up to assist with each step. In rapid motion, the images pass before my eyes and begin to take root. This man’s dreams become my own. Together he, the electric cooperatives and I create a modern world and somehow, in my subconscious, I know that no one’s life will ever be the same.



Sarah Killingsworth is the daughter of Steve and Anita Killingsworth of Stantonville. She will be a senior at Adamsville High School.

Barnes announces retirement

As Bobby Barnes announces his retirement, he says, “For me, retirement is such a bittersweet occasion. Although I am excited that this blessed day has arrived for me, it is sad for me to walk away from those I have been associated with for so long.”

Barnes came to work on Sept. 18, 1978, and will retire on July 9, with 31-plus years of service to Pickwick Electric Cooperative.

“I know when I awake on the morning of my retirement, it’s going to hit me, this is it. This will be my last day as an employee of PEC,” Barnes said.

Barnes is a native of McNairy County, born in Adamsville. He attended Morris Chapel High School and graduated in 1963. Barnes attended Jackson State Community College and received an associate degree in business administration. He also served two years in the Army with a tour of duty in Germany. During that time he attended and graduated from the Army’s Financing and Accounting School in Indianapolis.

He began his employment with PEC in 1978 as plant accountant and held that position until 1987 when he was promoted to electrification advisor. In 2006, he was promoted to director of member relations upon the retirement of Larry Gage.

Barnes says he has seen lots of changes since the late 1970s. “The one that probably affected me most was PEC’s emergence into the computer age. When I first came to work at the cooperative, no one had a computer. The Member Service Department was among the first to have a personal computer. Now everyone in the office has one, and we rely on them more and more each day to get the work done.”

Barnes says he has enjoyed meeting and talking with the members of PEC. During his career he has visited the homes of many of our members, doing heat pump inspections, energy surveys, electric water heater inspections, magazine article interviews and bill complaints. Most members know him on a first-name basis. During his three-decade career, Barnes has not missed an annual meeting or district meeting.



Bobby Barnes

He and his wife, Betty, were united in marriage 45 years ago. They have a son, Michael, who is president of Community South Bank and is married to the former Kellie Smith. The Barneses have a grandson, Houston, who is almost 4 years old.

When asked what he planned to do upon retirement, Barnes replied, “I am going to do some gardening, ride my tractor, play a little golf, sleep late and hopefully watch my grandson play ball. So you see I have a full plate.

“PEC has been like a second family to me. I want to thank those who gave me a chance to be a part of this wonderful organization. I have always had a lot of respect for the cooperative and the members. When our members had a problem, I have always tried to empathize with them. That personal contact is what I am going to miss the most.”



Barnes also enjoyed being associated with the younger members of PEC. He chaperoned the Washington Youth Tour for 20 years.



PEC billing statements to change in June

For more complete notifications of billing, all Pickwick Electric Cooperative statements for meters read on or after June 1 will have two messages printed in red. In the upper portion of the statement, the message will read: **NO FURTHER NOTICE WILL BE MAILED. This bill is now due and payable.** The message in the lower portion will read: **IF THE "NET AMOUNT DUE" IS NOT PAID WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE "DUE DATE," ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO COLLECT THE AMOUNT OR DISCONNECT SERVICE. IN SUCH CASES, COLLECTION AND RECONNECTION CHARGES WILL APPLY.**

Also, please verify that we have the correct phone number for your service address, as our phone system has the ability to match caller ID with PEC account number information. This can be done by writing the phone number on the back of the top portion of the statement before returning it or calling our office at 731-645-3411.

These changes were necessary to better serve you, our members.

Outdoor lighting changes

Effective immediately, recent federal laws require certain changes in Pickwick Electric Cooperative's outdoor lighting program. Replacement fixtures for all **mercury vapor (MV) lighting installations (blue tint)** will no longer be available. Routine maintenance of existing MV lighting installations will continue as long as parts are available. If an MV lighting fixture fails, it will be replaced with a **high-pressure sodium lighting fixture (yellow tint)**. PEC will work with our customers to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Holiday closing

**Pickwick Electric
Cooperative
will be closed
Monday, July 5, 2010,
for Independence Day.**