# sc co-op news



#### www.fairfield.coop

MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 2500 Blythewood, SC 29016

**BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE** 701 Blythewood Road Blythewood, SC 29016

WINNSBORO OFFICE 3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North Winnsboro, SC 29180

**OFFICE HOURS** 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday

CUSTOMER SERVICE Toll Free: (800) 628-0336 Blythewood: (803) 754-0153 Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621 Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY (800) 499-7862

Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



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### Prioritize safety year-round

**AT FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it every day.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. We present safety programs at local schools and organizations. Our miniature high voltage demonstration is very popular with elementary school students.

This month, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips. **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

**Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle--by having too many devices running on one circuit.

**Label circuit breakers** to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

**Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Fairfield Electric Cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

BRUCE G. BACON

Chief Executive Officer



## WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in our community? Tell their story and they could win a prize.

We know our community is filled with unsung heroes who are making a difference. Let's celebrate them! This is your chance to honor the people who are making a real difference. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on our community. All entries must be submitted by July 31, 2022.

#### Grand Prize \$2,500



FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Together, let's celebrate the power of human connections.

Visit ecsc.org/WhoPowersYou for full contest rules

Touchstone Energy<sup>\*</sup> Cooperatives of South Carolina he power of human connectio