

CHELCO NEWS

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CHELCO



A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 



Operation Round Up supports community

Since Operation Round Up was introduced to CHELCO members in January 2019, it has grown into a great success. Since then, charitable members have given back more than \$30,000 to organizations and charities in our community.

The grants awarded so far have supported scholarships, school supplies, exhibit development at the Emerald Coast Science Center, the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, Friends of Army Aviation, Dog Harmony, meals for children and families, housing for mothers and children, camps and life skills for special needs youth, and so much more. Without our participating members, none of this would be possible, so we extend our deepest thanks for embracing this great program.

Members who participate in Operation Round Up choose to round their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount, and the spare change is distributed to non-profit organizations in our communities. The contribution for members is an average of \$6 per year, and every penny goes to these worthy organizations.

Join us today and support Operation Round Up for just a few cents each month. To sign up, visit CHELCO.com/operation-round-up or give us a call at (850) 892-2111. As Operation Round Up continues to grow and support our area's generous organizations, we look forward to what we can do together!

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Announcement

Masks requested in CHELCO offices

We strongly request that members and other visitors wear masks while in our offices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



CEO Insights: We want you to be prepared

This year, we have had more than our share of challenges, and as we continue to fight the coronavirus and its spread, another potential threat lingers in warm international waters. While so much has happened already this year, many of us have been distracted from the fact that it is hurricane season.

Right now, the last thing our communities need is a natural disaster, and we're crossing our fingers that the remaining months of hurricane season will leave us safe and out of harm's way. However, the season brings with it the need for preparation and a plan of action.

While we can't predict which weather forecasts will come true, we can plan ahead so that if a hurricane does strike, we have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. Here at CHELCO, we review our hurricane plan throughout the year to ensure that our employees understand their roles and are prepared for the season.

Preparedness Actions and Items

The most important time to plan for a hurricane is well in advance of the storm. Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials.

Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand

sanitizer. Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV. Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

If a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and secure exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

During a Prolonged Outage

During extended outages, unplug all appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics to help avert damage from a power surge and to prevent overloading the circuit when power is restored. However, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If using a small generator to power your home, consider using LED string lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also

work if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones and using battery-powered TVs and radios instead. When the weather gets rough, stay away from windows, as flying debris and lightning can both pose a threat. Listen to your local news or NOAA weather radio for emergency updates, and check the CHELCO Connect app, our website or Facebook page for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow plenty of room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Power in Planning

While 2020 has been a difficult year for most of us, we're not out of the woods yet. Here at CHELCO, we're taking steps to ensure we're ready for whatever the season brings our way, and we want our members to be just as prepared as we are. Visit www.ready.gov/plan to learn more about how you can prepare your family for hurricane season. Act now, because there is power in planning.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

What we cut on the right-of-way



Keeping trees, branches, bushes and other growths off our lines reduces outages and safety concerns. Right-of-Way Coordinator Jesse Nolin says that vegetation management is crucial to ensuring the high level of reliability our members have come to expect. Our subsidiary Southland Utility Services cuts all of our right-of-way.

We most commonly cut limbs and branches on our right-of-way, which is the unobstructed path that our lines and poles are situated on, typically along the side of the highway. Overhanging branches can cause obstructions to our lines, often leading to outages and safety hazards. Since each area is cut every five years, we try to cut limbs back far enough to keep our lines clear between cuts.

Although many smaller shrubs and saplings do not pose immediate threats to our lines, we will clear any

vegetation that has the potential to grow into a threat within the next five years.

Sometimes, it's more practical to remove entire trees rather than trimming their limbs. We identify trees that are dead or dying and remove them before they fall. We will also cut dead trees outside of the right-of-way upon request, but will not be responsible for debris.

In addition to cutting, we also spray to slow the growth, which saves money and keeps the right-of-way clear for longer periods of time. We will trim the right-of-way upon a member's request, but will not be responsible for removing the debris. Also upon request, CHELCO will drop the service line for members to cut trees on their own property.

To request our trimming services, or for more information on right-of-way, call us at (850) 892-2111.

Adjust to changing weather and save on your energy bill

As we make it to the end of the summer and the cooler weather of fall approaches, your home will require a few slight changes in your energy-saving habits.

Check for cracks, leaks and drafts

Check your windows and doors for leaks and drafts that could make your heater work overtime. If any exterior doors have space between the floor and the door, or through the sides of the door, add weather stripping. Also consider installing foam gaskets behind electrical outlets and switches to reduce heat loss in your home.

Reverse the spin of ceiling fans

Your ceiling fans can easily help keep you cool, but they can also help keep you warm. If you reverse the direction to clockwise, your ceiling fan will push warm air down. It will also redistribute the warm air from your heating system.

Keep heating vents unobstructed

Keep your heating vents clear of furniture, drapes or other objects to ensure your system can run as efficiently as possible. Vacuum out dust from the supply air registers and the central air return for your equipment, and clean filters regularly.

CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Jim Bishop, District 3; Brady Bearden, Vice President, District 4; Ronald Jones, District 5; Gerald Edmondson, President, District 6; Bert Prutzman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, District 7; Gayle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8; Burt Cosson, District 9.

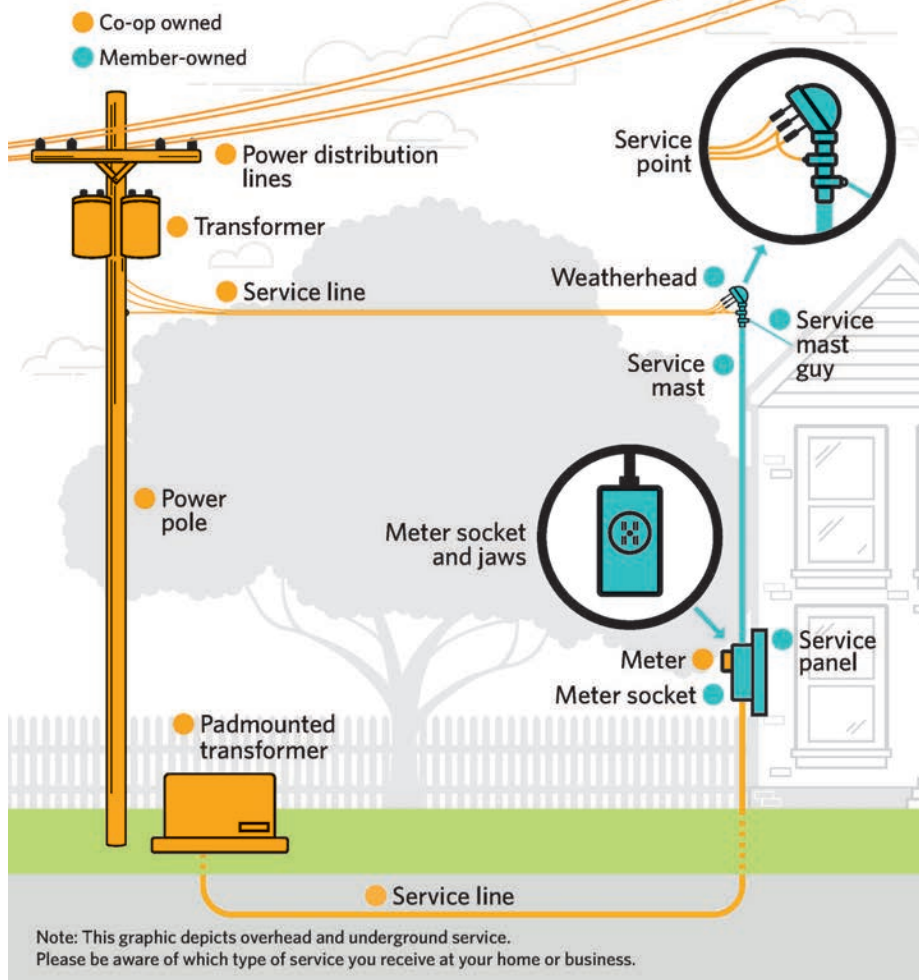
Report nonworking street lights

CHELCO appreciates members' help in identifying non-working streetlights. To report a non-working CHELCO streetlight, call (850) 892-2111; email lighting@chelco.com; visit CHELCO.com or download the CHELCO Connect app. Include the streetlight number, which is on the pole, if possible.

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Connections Corner

The Co-op Connections discount program is another benefit of being a CHELCO member. Local businesses, participating pharmacies and thousands nationally offer discounts to co-op members. Don't forget to download the Co-op Connections app!

This month, we highlight and thank the following businesses:

Circle S Produce
 (850) 585-9671
 DeFuniak Springs
 \$5 off any total purchase of \$25 or more on Wednesday.

SoWal Crossfit at NWFL Fitness
 (850) 830-3530
 Santa Rosa Beach
 10% off new monthly membership for the first year

The Poolkeeper
 (850) 865-2018
 Santa Rosa Beach
 10% off inflatable toys and pool cleaning accessories

For more information, visit CHELCO.com, email energyservices@chelco.com or call CHELCO's Energy Services department at (850) 307-1122.

IS \$25 YOURS?

If the account number below matches yours, sign this page and mail it with your bill to CHELCO or drop it off at any office. You'll win a \$25 credit on your next bill.

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