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### ONLINE NOW

All members can view  
CHELCO outages  
and storm tips on our  
website, CHELCO.com.



A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



## Remember to Plug into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and CHELCO is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

"It is critical that the public understands their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes," explains CHELCO Safety Officer Stanley Donald. "With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load."

To raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety, CHELCO will be sending out reminders through social media and other communication channels throughout the month.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.



### 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.

**Thrasher – 9000077493**



**May is National  
Electrical Safety Month**



**plug into safety**

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**

# Please make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do CHELCO's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

Florida law requires you to move over a lane — when you can safely do so — for stopped law enforcement, emergency, sanitation, utility service vehicles and tow trucks or wreckers. When you fail to move over, you put yourself and others at risk; you could crash into a vehicle or worker.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, you should slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, Florida law requires you to move over into the far lane.

**PLEASE MOVE  
OVER FOR  
EMERGENCY  
AND UTILITY  
CREWS**

**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.**

Violating the move over law could result in a fine, fees, and points on your driving record. For more information, see Florida Statute.

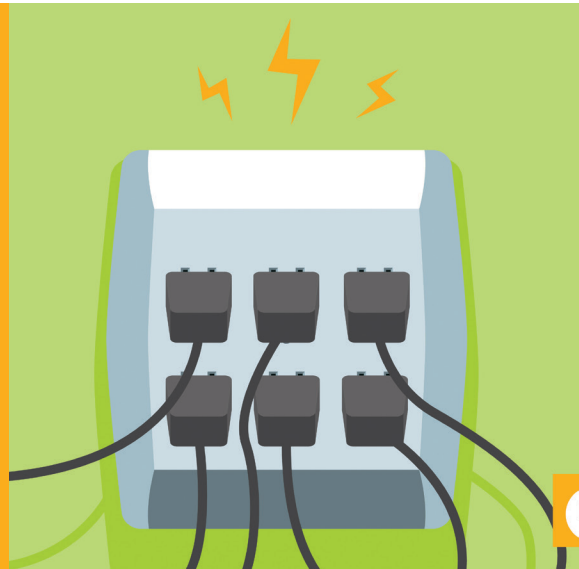


There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

## Surge equipment protects investments

A power surge is an abrupt increase in electric voltage, usually caused by lightning, which can seriously damage electrical devices. To protect electronics, CHELCO offers both meter-based and point-of-use surge devices. Members can lease meter-based devices, while point-of-use protectors are purchased and can be paid for with a six-month agreement. To find out more about surge protection, call CHELCO's Marketing Department at (850) 307-1122.

## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH



**Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:**

- Flickering/blinking lights
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Burning odor from receptacles
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers

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Electrical Safety Month**

 **plug into safety**







## Safety Above all Else

"Safety" is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For, CHELCO, it's the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, CHELCO has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, CHELCO's mission is to *safely provide quality services and products at competitive value while adhering to the cooperative principles*. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

### Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. CHELCO has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our

safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

### Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. CHELCO conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are

preventable.

There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact CHELCO for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact CHELCO's marketing department. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

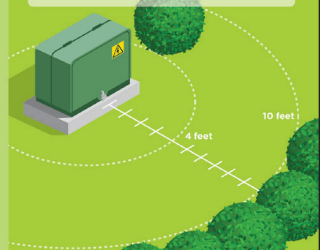
### Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.



Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.



Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.



Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.

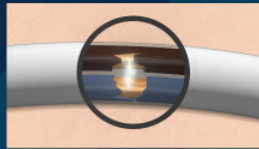


## ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIs)

# PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

### What is an **Arc-Fault**?

An arc-fault is a dangerous electrical problem **caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices**. Arc-faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall, or when outlets or circuits are compromised.



### Why do I need **Arc-Fault Protection**?

The National Fire Protection Association reported **47,700 home fires** involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction in 2011. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates **more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)**.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters are available as:

#### Branch/Feeder AFCI Breaker

- First generation AFCI breaker protection. AFCI protection originally required by the 1999 NEC
- Moderate fire prevention
- Trips when a parallel arc between hot and neutral conductors is detected

#### Combination Type AFCI Breaker

- Branch/Feeder AFCI breakers were phased out as of January 2008 and replaced with Combination Type AFCIs
- Enhanced fire protection
- Provides the **same protection as Branch/Feeder AFCIs and detects lower level series arcing** in both branch circuits and power cords

#### AFCI Receptacle

- Provides protection from arc-faults beyond branch circuit wiring extending to appliances and cords plugged into the receptacle
- Enhanced Fire Protection
- Protects all downstream wire and appliances from both parallel and series arcs, and also protects from series arcs upstream in the wiring between the source of the circuit and the first outlet on the circuit.



AFCI breakers and receptacles should be tested **monthly**.



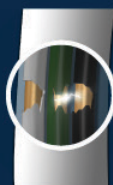
All electrical systems should have an electrical inspection if the home is older than **40 years** or has had a major addition, renovation, or large appliance added.



AFCIs should be installed by a **qualified electrician**.

#### Parallel Arc:

Arc between **hot and neutral conductor** or between the **hot and ground conductor**



#### Series Arc:

Arc along the **same conductor** or at **connections**



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**MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**