



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

July 2025 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Celebrating independence— and cooperative independence

As fireworks light up the sky and flags wave proudly this Independence Day, we're reminded of the values that define our nation—freedom, self-governance and unity. At Owen Electric, those same values are at the heart of who we are and how we operate every day as your electric cooperative.

Just like our country was founded on the belief that people should have a voice in their future, electric cooperatives were born out of a need for local control. In the 1930s, when investor-owned utilities said it wasn't profitable to bring electricity to rural America, neighbors banded together to form their own electric systems. That spirit of independence still defines us today.

Unlike large, investor-owned utilities that often answer to shareholders far removed from the communities they serve, we answer to you—our members. You elect our board of directors. Your needs and values drive our decisions, and your feedback helps shape our future.

Being a cooperative means more than just delivering reliable


electricity—it means being rooted in our communities. It means reinvesting in local infrastructure, offering programs that help members save electricity and money, and supporting local schools, civic organizations and economic development. It means we're not just in the community; we're part of it.

This month, as we reflect on what independence means to us as Americans, let's also celebrate the independence we've built together here at home—through local leadership, cooperative values and a shared commitment to one another.

From all of us at Owen Electric, we wish you a safe, joyful Independence Day.

From the Owen Electric Archives: A lineman works at the top of a newly-constructed pole while crew members coordinate from the ground in this undated historical photo. With linemen using climbing spikes and belts, electric cooperatives—like Owen Electric—played a key role in extending vital electric infrastructure into rural America.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President and CEO
Michael Cobb





Summer Vacay **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

BEFORE A TRIP

Set your thermostat to 85°F—no need to cool an empty house!

Unplug electronics—TVs, chargers and gaming consoles still draw power.

Turn off lights or use timers—save energy and add security.

Close blinds & curtains—block the sun and keep the heat out.

Turn off water heater or set to vacation mode—enjoy savings while you're away.

WHILE YOU'RE HOME

Use ceiling fans wisely—fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when leaving.

Grill outdoors—avoid heating your home with the oven or stove.

Do laundry at night—reduce heat and lower peak energy costs.

Run full loads—washing machines are most efficient when full.

Switch to LED bulbs—use less energy and give off less heat.

BRIGHT IDEAS ALL SUMMER

Seal doors and windows—stop cool air from escaping.

Use smart thermostats—automate comfort and cut costs.

Get your HVAC system serviced—efficient cooling = lower bills.

Install weather stripping—a simple fix with big benefits.

Shade your A/C unit—it'll work less and last longer.



More info:[owenelectric.com/home-improvement-reference](https://www.owenelectric.com/home-improvement-reference)

Stay safe this summer: Electrical safety tips from Owen Electric

As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, summer becomes a season of outdoor fun, family gatherings and home improvement projects. At Owen Electric, your safety is our top priority. Whether you're barbecuing in the backyard or installing new outdoor lighting, it's important to stay aware of potential electrical hazards. Here are essential tips to help you and your family stay safe around electricity this summer.

Look up and live

If you're trimming trees, flying kites or working on a roof, always be aware of overhead power lines. Maintain at least 10 feet of distance from lines, and never attempt to touch or go near one. Electricity can arc even without direct contact.

Use outdoor extension cords properly

Make sure any extension cords you use outdoors are labeled for outdoor use. Keep cords away from water, and never run them under rugs, doors or

windows where they could overheat or be damaged.

Be smart with pools and water activities

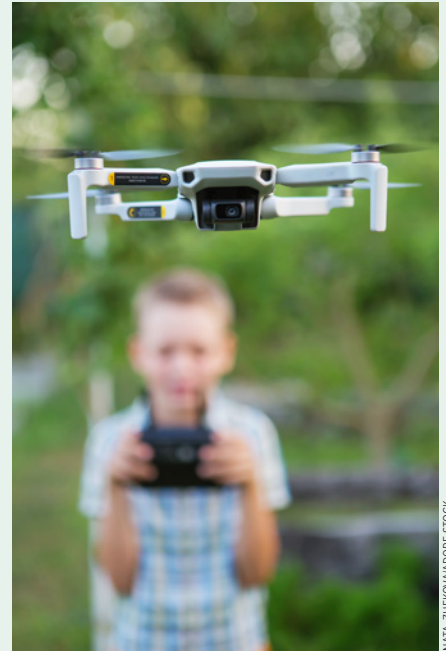
Keep electrical devices, such as radios, fans and chargers, at least 6 feet away from pools, hot tubs or wet surfaces. Never handle electrical equipment with wet hands or while standing in water.

Call before you dig

Planning a landscaping or construction project? Always call 811 before you dig. This free service will locate underground utility lines to prevent accidental contact that could cause injury or interrupt service.

Inspect outdoor outlets

Check that your outdoor outlets are protected by ground fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs shut off power if they detect a ground fault, reducing the risk of electric shock. If your outlets aren't GFCI-protected, consider having a licensed electrician update them.



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Teach kids electrical safety

Children are naturally curious—teach them to never climb trees near power lines or play on electrical equipment. Remind them to keep toys and drones away from utility poles and lines.

Storm safety awareness

Summer storms can bring down trees and power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and dangerous. Stay far away and report it to us immediately at (800) 372-7612.

Give space to utility workers

If you see our crews at work this summer, please slow down, move over and give them space to operate safely. They work hard—often in extreme conditions—to keep your power on.

Your safety is our priority

At Owen Electric, we're committed to powering your summer safely. If you have any questions about electrical safety or service, don't hesitate to contact us at (800) 372-7612, option 4.



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Out and about in our communities



Crew Leader Simon Peters and Safety Manager Cody Beckham spend a morning with the Northern Kentucky Water District giving an electrical safety demonstration. From understanding the dangers of downed power lines to learning how to stay safe around utility equipment, our teams are better equipped to protect themselves and our community. Photo submitted.



Lineman Josh Hearn, Service Technician Bobby Von Bokern and Meter Technician John Fitzgerald give a live-line demonstration to students participating in the Pendleton County Agriculture Safety Day. Photo submitted.

Kim Hudnall, Mendy Simpson and Rye Howard volunteer with the Owen County Youth Services Center to pack boxes for the Rebel Marketplace supplemental food program. Photo: Becky Mefford

