

# SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

MAY 2023



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**Our primary mission** is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO  
POWER ASSOCIATION IS AN  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER  
AND EMPLOYER



## May is Military Appreciation Month

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO  
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KEVIN BRANDON

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op value.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial in the utility industry. Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) and our subsidiary SECOM are proud to employ seven veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to our companies and our community.

### Leadership and team-building skills

Our veteran colleagues joined SECPA and SECOM equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty, military personnel work closely together as they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high

level of self-discipline, a sense of personal responsibility and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

### Mission-oriented outlook

Working for SECPA or SECOM is more than just a job. There is a clear mission in the work: to help our members, customers and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members and customers. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal oriented and want to do right by their company and community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks; we are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

## ■ YOUR CO-OP NEWS

### Military Appreciation Month

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At the national level, electric co-ops support the “Vets Power Us” program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

I hope you’ll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!



## YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN\* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

Last month's winner was Madeline Newell.



## Play It Safe Around Power Lines

**D**igging holes, climbing trees, flying kites — outdoor play often creates beautiful childhood memories for decades to come. Before hitting the great outdoors, however, remember to discuss electrical safety with your children.

### Flying Fun

When flying kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones, stay in large, open areas, such as parks or fields, far away from power lines. If an item gets caught in a power line, teach children to ask an adult to call their electric utility for help.

### General Outdoor Safety Tips

Other important safety guidelines for kids and adults alike include:

- Never throw objects at power lines.
- Stay far away from downed, damaged or low-hanging power lines. An adult should call 911 to report a downed or damaged line.
- Be cautious after a severe storm that



caused a power outage. Downed power lines could be hidden under water, snow or storm debris. Wait to go outside until power is restored.

\*WIN Uel Turner acct. 408450211

- Do not climb, sit or play on padmount transformers (green boxes).
- Do not climb trees that have overhead power lines near or running through them.

### Poolside

When maintaining an outdoor pool, look overhead when using pool skimmers or other long objects to be sure you are not getting close to an overhead power line. If you are swimming and feel a prickly or tingling sensation, get out of the pool — there could be a stray electric current from a downed power line or a damaged electrical device. Also, never play in a flooded street or ditch — a downed power line could be hidden by the water and fallen debris.

### Prevention is Key

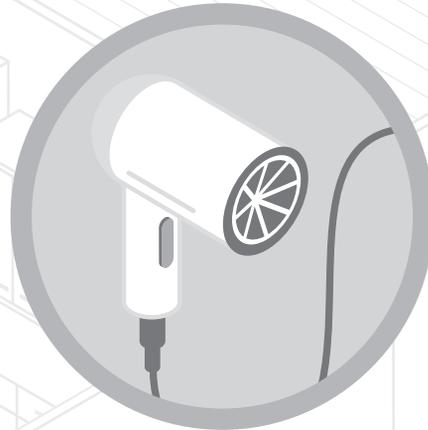
Electric shock and injuries are often preventable when you know what to look for. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge to lower your chances of injury. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

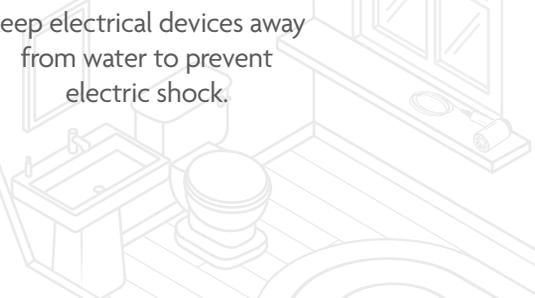
**DON'T**

place flammable items such as potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



**DO**

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



**DO**

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



**DON'T**

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

**May is National Electrical Safety Month.**

# STAY COOL!! & BEAT THE PEAK

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48% of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Although most of that 48% is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea, regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home and becomes heat, according to energy.gov.

- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or

smart thermostat. You can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to energy.gov.

- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by an HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and shrubs that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10% annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.



**WE MAKE A GREAT PAIR!**

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