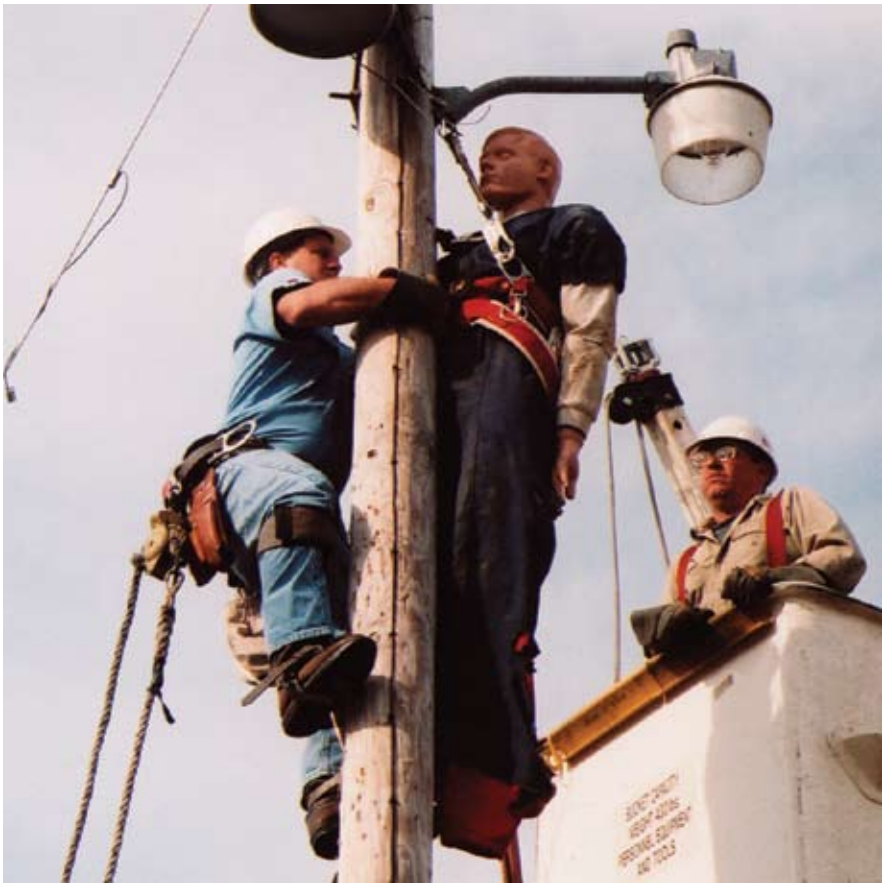
# Manager's Comments



Lineman Charles Brooks practices pole-top rescue at a recent safety meeting as lineman Bobby Pritchard observes.

Clarke-Washington EMC completed the year 2006 without a lost-time accident. Nearly 150,000 man hours have been worked without someone being unable to do their job because they were injured at work. An accident-free year saves CWEMC money on insurance premiums and, most importantly of all, means that everyone employed was able to go home to their families in the same condition that they came to work.

All CWEMC employees receive proper safety training. Safety meetings are held monthly in an effort to promote safe working conditions at CWEMC. Public safety is also very important to us. That's why electrical safety brochures are available free of charge at every CWEMC office. Safety information is also published in *Alabama Living* magazine. CWEMC encourages anyone who sees an unsafe condition on their system to please report it to the cooperative. The toll free number is available 24 hours a day. Call (1-800) 323-9081. Our last calendar year without a lost time accident was 2004.

**Stan Wilson** is the General Manager/CEO of Clarke Washington Electric Membership Corporation

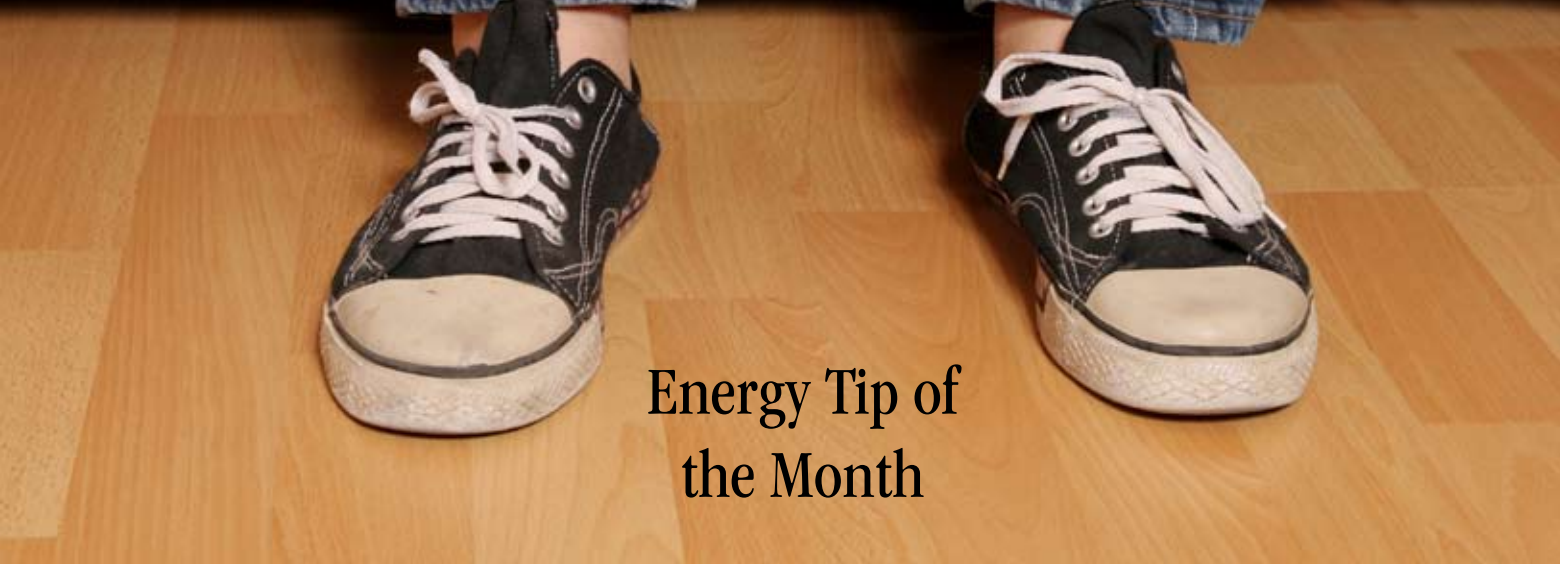

**Clarke-Washington EMC**

1307 College Avenue
P.O. Box 398
Jackson, AL 36545
251-246-9081 (local)
1-800-323-9081 (toll free)




**To report a power outage, call 1-800-323-9081.**

Cooperatives
democracy in action



# Energy Tip of the Month

## Insulation under your shoes is money in your pocket

Floor insulation is a very important part in the complete energy conservative package for a home. Floor insulation is sometimes overlooked when people are building their house.

**Why Floor Insulation Works:**

Heat doesn't rise. The myth that heat rises was used for many years to justify not insulating floors at all. That led to some very cold feet. It's hot air that rises. An air mass that is warmer than the air around it will rise in relation to that cooler air. The process of hot air rising is called convection. It's only one way that heat can escape a building. Two others are conduction and radiation. Floor insulation limits all three modes of heat loss. A warmer floor reduces the temperature difference that drives convection. Floor insulation also directly resists conduction and radiation to the colder air below the floor.

**Lift The Batt:**

Like walls, floor cavities should be completely filled with insulation—without gaps or voids. To get your money's worth from floor insulation it must contact the sub floor and both joists. In many cases, it's worth the extra cost to buy enough insulation to fill the cavity, even if you end up with R-38. To avoid a gap in this situation, the batt must be pushed up into the cavity. With the proper support, that can be done. Springy metal rods are commonly used to hold insulation up in the top of the floor cavity. Plastic straps are another option.

**Fill The Cavity:**

Buying a thicker batt may be a better option than trying to lift a thinner batt into the proper position. Material costs will climb slightly but labor should be the same. Attaching the insulation support to the bottom of the floor joist will be easier. It could also lead to a higher quality job because there is less chance for compression or gaps.

For example, upgrading floor insulation from R-19 to R-30 or R38 can save several times more money in heating costs over the life of the house than the initial cost to install it. Of course, colder climates will benefit most, but even in moderate climates the economics are generally positive.

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# Cooperatives: working together

Working or acting together willingly for a common purpose or benefit, is the definition of the word Cooperative. The electric cooperative movement begin in the 1930s, as a result of neighbors working with neighbors to bring electricity to America's rural landscape.

Even today, electric cooperatives are well known for working together in times of crises. Crews have been sent all over the country to help out after major storms, and have been on the receiving end of such help.

It's understandable that power outages are frustrating. That is why we work hard to minimize the number of power outages that occur on our system. Unfortunately, every utility is going to experience outages at some point in time. The outage time for CWEMC in 2006 was less than 2 hours per customer. This means your cooperative provided you with reliable electricity 99.9 percent of the time during the year 2006.

It is assured to you that our top priority is to provide all of our member-owners with reliable service; we also assure you that our system for reporting power outages is done in the quickest and most efficient manner so we can restore your power. If you have called in a power outage and the system says it does not recognize your number, please call in during regular working hours and give us a phone number that the automated outage reporting system will recognize. This will aid in our ability to restore your power during evenings, weekends and holidays.

# Electrical Safety in the Home

*Electricity is an essential part of our lives. However, it has the potential to cause great harm. Electrical systems will function almost indefinitely if properly installed and not overloaded or physically abused.*

## Electrical Panels

Electricity enters the home through a control panel and a main switch where one can shut off all the power in an emergency. Control panels use either fuses or circuit breakers. Install the correct fuses for the panel. Never use a greater numbered fuse or a metallic item such as a penny. If fuses are used and there is a stoppage in power, look for the broken metal strip in the top of a blown fuse. Replace the fuse with a new one marked with the correct amperage. Reset circuit breakers from off to on. Be sure to check why the fuse or circuit blew. Possible causes are frayed wires, overloaded outlets or defective appliances. Never overload a circuit with high wattage appliances. Check the wattage on appliance labels. If there is frayed insulation or a broken wire, a dangerous short circuit may result and cause a fire. If power stoppages continue or if a frayed or broken wire is found, contact an electrician.

## Outside Hazards

There are several electrical hazards outside the home. Be aware of overhead and underground power lines. People have been electrocuted when an object they are moving has come in contact with the overhead power lines. Keep ladders, antennas, kites and poles away from power lines leading to the house and other buildings. Do not plant trees, shrubs, or bushes under power lines or near underground power lines.

Never build a swimming pool or other structure under the power line leading to your house. Before digging, learn the location of underground power lines. Do not climb power poles or transmission towers. Never let anyone shoot or throw stones at insulators. If you have an animal trapped in a tree or on the roof near electric lines, phone your utility company. Do not take a chance of electrocuting yourself. Be aware of weather conditions when installing and working with electrical appliances. Never use electrical power tools or appliances with rain overhead or water underfoot. Use only outdoor lights, fixtures and extension cords. Plug into outlets with a ground fault interrupter.

Downed power lines are extremely dangerous. If you see a downed power line, call CWEMC, and warn others away. If a power line hits your car while you are in it, stay inside unless the car catches fire. If the car catches fire, jump clear without touching metal and the ground at the same time.

## Electricity and Water

People are good conductors of electricity, particularly when standing in water or on a damp floor. A body can act like a lightning rod and carry the current to the ground. Never use any electric appliance in the tub or shower. Never touch an electric cord or appliance with wet hands. Do not use electrical appliances in damp areas or while standing on damp floors. In areas where water is present, use outlets with "ground fault interrupters" or GFIs. Shocks can be fatal.

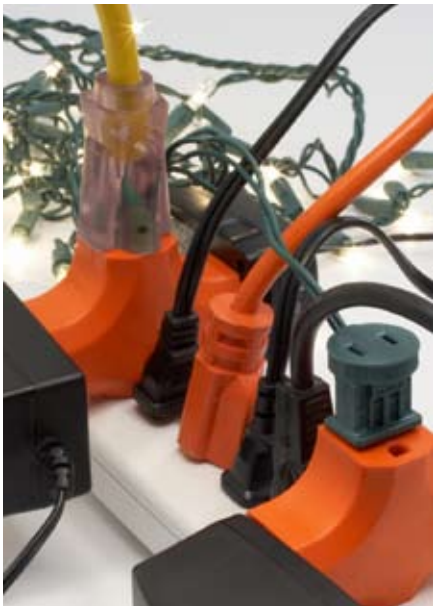
## Electrical Heating Equipment

Portable electrical heating equipment may be used in the home as a supplement to the home heating system. Caution must be taken when using these heating supplements. Keep them away from combustibles and make sure they cannot be tipped over. Keep electrical heating equipment in good working condition. Do not use them in bathrooms because of the risk of contact with water and electrocution.

Many people use electric blankets in their homes. They will work well if they are kept in good condition. Look for cracks or breaks in the wiring, plugs and connectors. Look for charred spots on both sides. Many things can cause electric blankets to overheat. They include other bedding placed on top of them, pets sleeping on top of them, and putting things on top of the blanket when it is in use. Folding the blankets can also bend the coils and cause overheating.

## Animal Hazards

Mice and other rodents can chew on electrical wires and damage them. If rodents are suspected or known to be in the home, be aware of the damage they may cause and take measures to get rid of them.



## Outlets and Extension Cords

Make sure all electrical outlets are three-hole, grounded outlets. If there is water in the area, there should be a GFI or Ground Fault Interrupter outlet. All outdoor outlets should be GFIs. There should be ample electrical capacity to run equipment without tripping circuit breakers or blowing fuses. Minimize extension cord use. Never place them under rugs. Use extension cords sparingly and check them periodically. Use the proper electrical cord for the job, and put safety plugs in unused outlets.

## Three Ways to Prevent Accidents

1. Turn off all electrical appliances when you go out. Teach children this habit by example.

2. Know your appliances. Read and follow manufacturers' instructions. Be sure all appliances and power tools carry an Underwriters Laboratory tag.

3. Practice extension cord safety. Cords are for temporary indoor use, away from moisture, heat, or metal pipes, and never under rugs.

## Electrical Appliances

Appliances need to be treated with respect and care. They need room to breathe. Avoid enclosing them in a cabinet without proper openings and do not store papers around them. Level appliances so they do not tip. Washers and dryers should be checked often. Their movement can put undue stress on electrical connections.

If any appliance or device gives off a tingling shock, turn it off, unplug it and have a qualified person correct the problem. Shocks can be fatal. Never insert metal objects into appliances without unplugging them. Check appliances periodically to spot worn or cracked insulation, loose terminals, corroded wires, defective parts and any other components that might not work correctly. Replace these appliances or have them repaired by a person qualified to do so.

# Scholarship Opportunity for Graduating Seniors!

## Are you a high school senior who is graduating this spring? Are you a dependent of a member of our local cooperative?

If so, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Electric Cooperative Foundation. Your local cooperative has joined other cooperatives throughout the state of Alabama to create the Electric Cooperative Foundation. This spring the foundation will be awarding scholarships across Alabama for students to continue their education at post-secondary and vocational schools.

For more details about these scholarships, obtain a copy of an Electric Cooperative scholarship application from your high school guidance counselor or call:

Bobby Farish
CWEMC
(800) 323-9081

Don't wait; applications with all required attachments must be received no later than March 14, 2007.