



Closing Notice

On this Memorial Day, let us pause with reverence to remember those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, for our freedom and for our country's values.

In observance of Memorial Day, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 31. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday.

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Brad Coppock

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*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Coppock | Interim General Manager

Tree Trimming Improves Service for All

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way. Managing vegetation near power lines is something we are actually required to do as part of the National Electrical Safety Code.

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a “right-of-way” is and how it may impact you. A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Powell Valley Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and

that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

As you know, Powell Valley Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.



Say 'Thanks' to Mom with Electronics that Make Life Easier

This Mother's Day, skip the flowers and candy. Instead, give Mom a gift that will make her life a little easier. Here are 10 ideas:

1

An emergency phone charger. This handy gadget is pre-charged and small enough to slip into a pocket or wallet for use if Mom's phone dies where there's no place to plug in.

2

A rechargeable mini-light to clip in her purse. A motion-activated model will light up every time Mom opens her handbag or backpack to search for keys, lipstick or receipts.

3

A robotic vacuum cleaner. Moms generally are not thrilled to receive appliances as gifts on special occasions, but this one might change her mind. Wireless, rechargeable robot vacuums sweep the floors on their own so Mom doesn't have to lift a finger.

4

A fitness watch or wristband tracker. For anyone who's counting steps and wants to monitor heart rate and other health levels, a tracker that doubles as a watch — or straps onto the wrist like one — is a great convenience.

5

A keyboard for her iPad. If Mom works on the go, she probably has an iPad. Get her a keyboard and carrying case so she can convert it to a mini computer screen whenever she wants to.

6

A digital assistant. There are so many to choose from. These gadgets respond to voice commands and can look up answers to questions, turn on music and lights, and perform myriad other tasks while Mom's hands are busy with other chores.

7

A phone mount for her car. Help Mom stay safe on the road with a mount that nestles into a cup holder or clips onto the dashboard's a/c vent.

8

A smart scale. These Bluetooth devices reveal more than weight. Mom can keep track of health metrics like BMI and hydration, and monitor her fitness goals.

9

A phone charger that disinfects. At a time when it's a good idea to sanitize just about everything, a charger that zaps bacteria in just a few minutes can save time and worry.

10

A Bluetooth-powered key finder. Mom can attach it to any item that she can't seem to keep track of and then use her phone to find it.

Bylaw Article on Nominations

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held at Hancock County High School in Sneedville, Tennessee.

An important part of your annual meeting is the election of directors. Below is an excerpt from the cooperative's bylaws regarding nominations.

ARTICLE IV. DIRECTORS, SECTION 4, NOMINATIONS.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the different districts delineated as director districts. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at all the offices of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures. Such nominations in writing are required to be in a cooperative office by 5:00 p.m. not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.

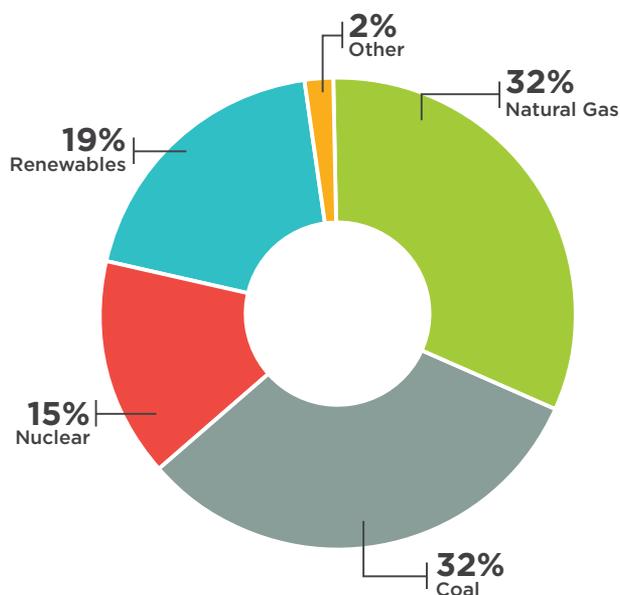
The Secretary shall cause the said petition to be posted at the same places where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected, showing separately the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations to fill vacancies on the board of directors, and the election of the respective directors, shall be for the particular district or districts where the vacancy or vacancies exist or the term or terms thereof is expiring.

This means that any nominations by petition are to be in a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office not less than 60 days prior to the Cooperative's annual meeting. Nominations by petition, therefore, must be in one of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's offices by 5 p.m. on July 21, 2021.

Thunderstorm Safety Tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA weather radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and securely close outside doors. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or otherwise use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces in and outside the vehicle that conduct electricity.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.





Safety Tips

Jason Stapleton
Tazewell Area Supervisor

This month is set aside every year as a time to pay special attention to staying safe around electricity — something everyone at Powell Valley Electric believes in wholeheartedly. By designating May as Electrical Safety Month, the National Safety Council seeks to remind everyone of the hazards associated with electricity and provide tips you can follow to stay safe around it.

With this in mind (and a whole summer full of fun just around the corner), now is a great time to focus on safety lessons for young people. By taking a few minutes to remind your children or grandchildren of these dangers, you can prevent accidental shock or other injuries. Young people at play can be especially vulnerable, and we want to do everything possible to keep our smallest PVEC members safe!

 Flying a kite is great fun on a breezy day, but keep it far away from power lines. If your kite accidentally comes close to one, drop the kite string or reel immediately. Better to lose your kite than come in contact with electricity, which can travel straight down your kite string to YOU!

 This next one applies to adults as well: Never fly a drone near power lines. Even “toy” drones can cause an outage if they hit a power line. (They can also cause a downed power line, which is extremely hazardous.)

 Those shiny “metalized” balloons are another no-no. Balloons of all kinds are best kept well away from power lines.

 Never play around or climb on those green metal boxes found throughout subdivisions. These pad-mounted transformers contain electrical equipment that helps bring underground electricity to your house and your neighbors’ homes.

 Don’t climb trees that are anywhere near power lines. Even if the branches are just close by, a windy day (plus your added weight) could bend them in such a way as to bring them into contact with a power line. If that happens, the whole tree (with you in it) could become energized.

 If you should ever see a downed power line lying on the grass or in the road or a driveway, NEVER get close to it! Let an adult know right away so they can notify Powell Valley Electric.

It’s never too early to begin teaching children about electrical safety and that’s true in May as well as in every other month of the year.



Complimentary Wi-Fi at Our New Tazewell Office

In an effort to keep the communities we serve connected to the online resources they need, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer a complimentary Wi-Fi hot spot at our New Tazewell office.

Individuals can access the internet from the safety of their vehicles by choosing the wireless connection named “PVEC Public Wi-Fi.” To obtain guest access to the internet, individuals should check the “Terms of Use” box and click “Connect.”

This service will work with laptops, tablets, cell phones and other Wi-Fi enabled devices. In the near future, there will also be Wi-Fi hot spots at our Jonesville and Sneedville offices.



Heat Pump Financing Available

The Tennessee Valley Authority continues to offer heat pump financing for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers who qualify through the EnergyRight program. The current interest rate is good through Sept. 30, 2021.

Call the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office nearest you for details on this residential heat pump loan program.