



# BE THE SAFETY EXAMPLE FOR LITTLE EYES

When it comes to children and electronics, conversations tend to revolve around screen time or the best educational apps. However, an often-overlooked topic is how we as adults model safe behavior around electricity, both indoors and outdoors. Since children are constantly watching, learning, and mimicking, it's important to be the safety example they need.

As children begin to walk and explore their environment, they are exposed to potential electrical hazards. Early conversations can help them build lifelong habits and understand the difference between safe and unsafe behaviors. More importantly, what they see us do is just as important.

Children are like sponges, absorbing everything around them. If they see us taking shortcuts or doing unsafe behaviors, it's likely that they'll assume those behaviors are acceptable. On the other hand, when they witness us consistently practicing safe behaviors, they are more likely to adopt these habits themselves.

Consider the moments when a child is by your side, whether riding along on a tractor or helping in the kitchen.

These are perfect opportunities to demonstrate and discuss safety. Point out overhead power lines and explain the importance of maintaining a safe distance. Show them how to safely remove a stuck slice of toast from a toaster by unplugging it first. Educate them about the dangers of lightning during storms, especially near pools or bodies of water. Each interaction is a chance to teach responsibility and awareness.

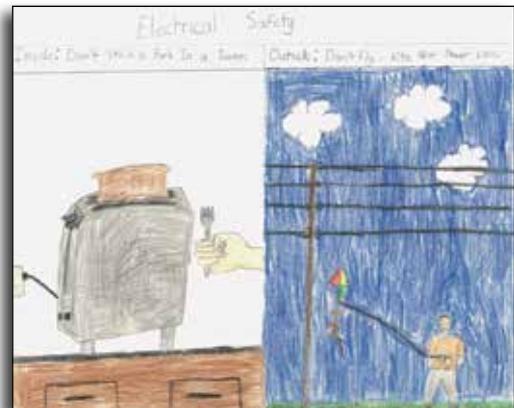
The impact of being a safety role model extends far beyond immediate protection. By teaching children the importance of electrical safety from a young age, you are not only safeguarding them but also contributing to the development of safer communities. As these children grow, they carry these lessons with them, influencing their peers and future generations.

It is never too early or too late to start the conversation and implement a few more safety measures at home. By being mindful of our own actions and the little eyes watching us, we can create an environment where safety is second nature.

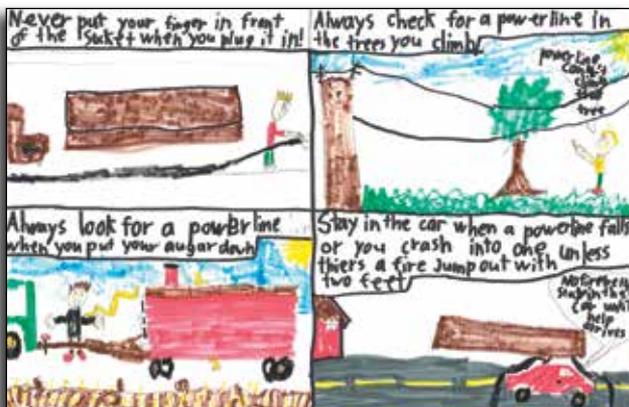
*Congratulations!*

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

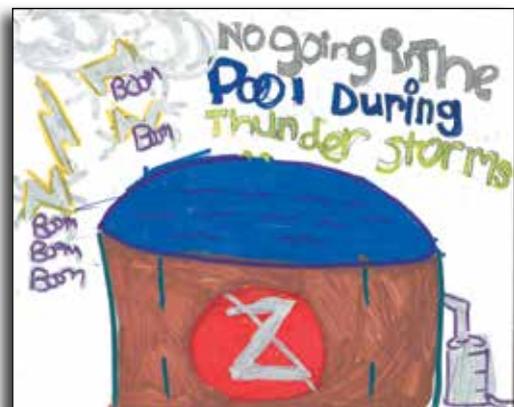
We received several submissions from our talented 3rd grade members for the Electrical Safety Poster Contest in honor of Electrical Safety Month in May. With so many great entries, we couldn't choose just one—so we selected the top three winners to receive a \$25 gift card! These young artists' artwork reminds us how important it is to stay safe around electricity.



Lauren Freise - 2nd place



Charlie Ihm - 1st place



Pearl Johnson - 3rd place

# WHO OWNS WHAT?

## UNDERSTANDING CO-OP VS. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC) is always prepared to respond to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by your co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

### Co-op Owned

SREC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that deliver electricity to your meter socket, as well as the meter itself. This includes certain utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters, and transformers. In essence, the co-op manages everything from the meter back to the substation.

### Member Owned

SREC members are responsible for the equipment located from the meter base to your home or business, including any overhead or underground lines that feed the home. Members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a Wisconsin-licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be made before our crews can restore power. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

### Vegetation Management

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather.

You will find us regularly trimming trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call us.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these cases, please call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

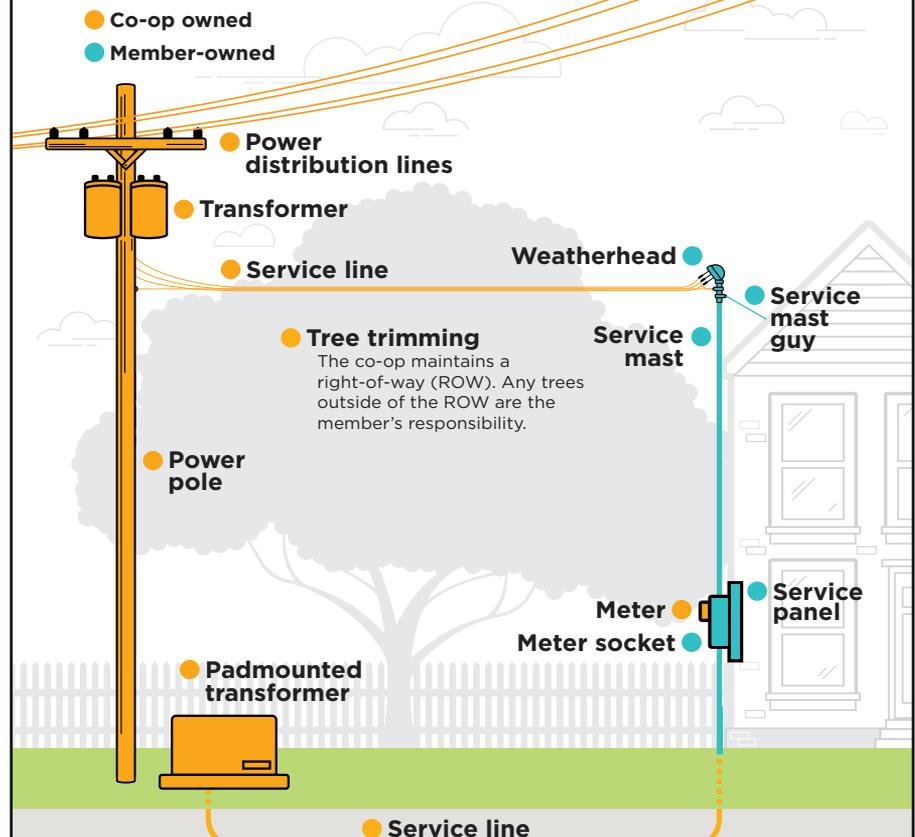
By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

### Contact Your Co-op

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact our line department at 800-236-2141, option 2.

### Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



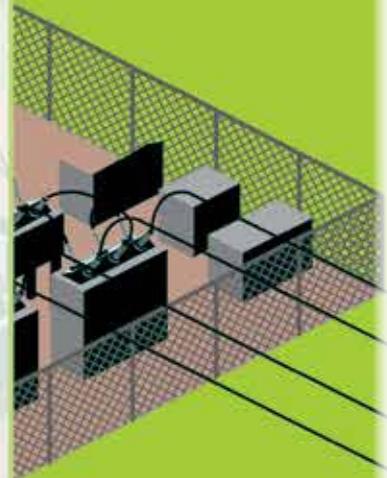
Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Your residential service may be different than what is depicted here. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home.



# ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WORD SEARCH

Did you know we use a variety of equipment to send electricity to your home?

Read the facts below to learn about the equipment we use, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle below.



- **Transformers** look like large metal cans on top of utility poles or big green boxes on the ground. They reduce the voltage of electricity for safe use in your home.
- **Power lines** hang overhead or are placed underground to carry electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses.

- Lineworkers use **bucket trucks** to reach power lines and poles when making repairs and updates to the electrical system.
- **Electric meters** are placed on the outside of homes to measure the amount of electricity you use.
- **Substations** are facilities that contain equipment to help control the flow of electricity.

## MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

*This year's theme is*  
Homegrown

Our annual photo contest is underway! This year we are searching for photos that showcase local pride and sustainability. Whether it's children helping in the garden, a fresh crop in the field, or bees making honey, get creative and show us what "homegrown" means to you.

The winning photos will be featured in SREC publications including our newsletter and this magazine. Members of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to enter!

### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Taken in the SREC service area
- Horizontal (landscape orientation)
- May be in color or black and white
- High resolution (at least 300 dpi)
- Must own rights to photos

### Photo Contest Rules:

A completed entry form must accompany each photo, for those members under 18 years old, a parent/guardian form must accompany each entry.

For more details and to submit your photo, visit [sre.coop](http://sre.coop).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



"A Rainbow in the Field, Bordering a Storm" is this month's featured photo from Emily Dolphin, a member in Cuba City, WI.



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