



# WATTS GOING ON...

at Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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May, 2023



## May is Military Appreciation Month

By: Anne Prince



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 ethos.

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 to 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 for the utility industry.

### Leadership and Teambuilding Skills

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, 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 an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work-- to help our consumer-members 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. 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 co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal oriented, wanting to do right for their co-op and their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at Coastal Electric Cooperative we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks and 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.

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.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and 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!

## A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

**DON'T**  
place flammable items, like 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.**



# Community CONNECTION



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ



May is National Electrical Safety Month! Take this quiz to test your safety skills. Check your answers in the key below.

1. It's safe to plug in several devices to one electrical outlet as long as you use a power strip.  
A. True B. False
2. Smoke alarms should be tested \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Every month B. Every other month C. Every six months
3. Extension cords are safe to use year-round if the cord is not frayed or damaged.  
A. True B. False
4. When unplugging a device from an electrical outlet, always hold the \_\_\_\_\_ while unplugging.  
A. Cord B. Plug C. Device
5. It's never safe to play near power lines, but it's OK to play near pad-mounted transformers (those big green boxes you see in neighborhoods).  
A. True B. False
6. Where is the most dangerous place to use electricity?  
A. Near other electrical equipment B. Outdoors C. Near water

Answer key: 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Thermostat placement can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. Thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home.


**CEC**  
COASTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## MEMORIAL DAY

— HONORING ALL WHO SERVED —

Our Office will be closed Monday, May 29, 2023  
In the case of an Outage or Emergency please call 843-538-5700



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY