



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

United Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Post Office Box 688
DuBois, PA 15801-0688
Customer Service: 888-581-8969
www.unitedpa.com
Outage: 800-262-8959
Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Stephen A. Marshall, District 5
1030 Donahue Rd.
Luthersburg, Pa. 15848
814-583-7320

Vice Chairman

Timothy D. Burkett, District 6
5059 Hamilton Markton Rd.
Punxsutawney, Pa. 15767
814-938-7991

Secretary/Treasurer

Eileen Pisaneschi, District 2
1964 River Hill Rd.
Frenchville, Pa. 16836
814-263-4491

DIRECTORS

Shanelle Hawk, District 1
502 Pine Run Rd.
Mayport, Pa. 16240
814-365-5646

Arden E. Owens, District 7
505 Trout Run Rd.
Shawville, Pa. 16873
814-765-6458

Richard Petrosky, District 3
P.O. Box 612
DuBois, Pa. 15801
814-371-8672

David W. Walker, District 4
631 Olanta Rd.
Olanta, Pa. 16863
814-236-3321

President & CEO
Brenda Swartzlander

Consumer Advocate
Debra Horner, ext. 8508
Kristy Smith, Editor

From the President & CEO



It's that time again...

By Brenda Swartzlander

WE'VE all been inconvenienced on occasion by an outage, and it always seems to happen at the worst possible time. In some cases, the power suddenly goes out. At other times, the power might blink on and off a couple of times and then stay off. Either way, we know something has gone wrong.

Our first instinct is to look around the neighborhood to see if our neighbors are also out of power. If they aren't, we then check to be sure we didn't simply trip a breaker. If that's not the case, we'll call United Electric to report an outage to get lineworkers to restore the power as soon as possible.

Although experiencing an outage is inconvenient, we know what to do. But what do we do when we experience a brownout (or a low-voltage situation) in our home? During an outage, our appliances are off just as if we turned them off. The same is not true if there is a brownout. During a brownout, if appliances are allowed to run for an extended period with significantly lower than normal voltage, damage may occur. Just to be clear, I am not talking about the momentary dips in voltage you may notice when a large load in your home, such as your air conditioner, starts up. I am talking about a significant drop in voltage lasting for an extended period.

What to do

If you notice that your lights dim significantly and appliances are not running normally (they may not

sound the way they usually do when they are running), go to your electric panel and shut off your main breaker. Then call United Electric and report what you are experiencing. Allowing appliances to run during a brownout situation may damage the appliance, including the motor and electronics.

Why they happen

Although they are much less common than outages, brownouts do occur occasionally. There are a number of causes. Overloads on the electrical system can trigger a brownout. This may occur if a tree falls into the electric line and does not break the line, but instead creates a pathway to the ground for large amounts of energy. This causes a large drain of power from the system, which in turn, lowers the voltage. Brownouts can also occur when events, such as storms or an auto accident, damage the distribution system. A brownout can also occur when one of the three phases into our substation is interrupted. When power to one of the three phases is lost, the voltage on the other two phases can drop, causing a brownout. These situations can last a few minutes or a few hours, depending on the cause and how quickly United Electric can find and correct the problem.

United Electric continually works to minimize outages and provide you with consistent power, but occasionally disruptions will occur. We are here to answer your call, whatever the situation may be. ❁

Rustic Views

The many sides of March

By Glenn Schuckers

WHEN I think about March, I think about change. March brings a lot of things: windy days (think of flying a kite when you were a kid), some warm days when I can finally go outside without a coat ... bird watching near the feeders ... and of course, a March snowstorm.

March has almost every season wrapped up in its 31 days with the exception of midsummer heat waves. It can get pretty warm this month and fool us into thinking that winter is over and gone, but those of us with long memories know better.

Sad to say, some of our plants, trees and bushes do not have a memory. We have five or six lilac bushes around the house now, and just about every other year they are covered with brown buds instead of pink, purple or white flowers because March fooled them into thinking it was time to bloom, only to have the tender buds freeze when the temperature dropped into the 20s.

That is the main reason some fruit trees, like peaches and apricots, don't do well here. There are a few of them that can survive the midwinter cold since some of them claim to have been developed in places like Canada or Minnesota. That's fine. They can survive those single-digit days in January, but the real problem is March.

Dad once had a fair-sized peach



Glenn Schuckers, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers' Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*.

We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.



orchard on part of the property that faced the southeast. We planted about 200 peach trees, and for five or six years, they did well. We clean-cultivated the orchard, checked the trees all summer for peach-tree borers and pruned them in the winter. All went well, and when they were about 6 or 7 years old, they started to bear fruit.

And what fruit they bore! Nothing tastes quite as sweet and juicy as a fresh peach just picked off the tree. Needless to say, fresh, home-grown peaches were real winners, and they sold as fast as we could pick them.

Then for the next two years, we had "typical" March weather. Some days would be warm and sunny, and

it looked as though we were in for an early spring. Then the wind turned and temperatures dropped into the single-digits many nights. The sap that had been encouraged to flow into the branches and buds swelled and burst. The buds that would have produced fruit were ruined and produced nothing.

The trees never really recovered after that. Slowly, a few more died here and there. By the time they would have been 10 years old, there were no producing trees left. We had to remove the stumps and replace them with pear trees.

Such is the course of nature: Nothing ever stays the same; everything is in a state of constant change. Some of it

we can see, but a lot of the changes we cannot see. But whether we can see it or not, changes are taking place.

There are about two ways we can deal with change. We can accept it, or we can rally against it and dig in our heels. I've refused to accept that things are changing more times than I care to admit. Both as a farmer and a teacher, there were things I "knew" that had never changed and, by golly, were never going to change. I "knew" I could tell what fertilizers the corn field needed by tasting the soil. I "knew" when to prune trees by watching the geese fly overhead. I "knew" which varieties of apples would do best because they had always done well

before.

Turns out, in a lot of those cases, I was wrong.

I could not taste a calcium deficiency in the soil that caused blossom-end rot in tomatoes and brown spots under the skin of apples. It took a soil test to show that. Other diseases took a lab analysis to find out why some leaves turned yellow.

So, now I try to take another approach to change.

I won't go so far as to say that I embrace change yet, but I am willing to admit (grudgingly) that some changes make things better. It has not been easy to admit that some of the things I always "knew" were not really true, but

one thing about getting older is that it does make it easier to accept change.

If that sounds strange coming from a 78-year-old, I should explain that it did not come easily or quickly. It probably took about 70 years for me to learn that I was not always right, and another three years to admit it.

But change there is. I can accept it or fight it. Right now, I prefer to be like the next month on the calendar, April, and accept March with all of its unpredictability and look for more consistency ahead. Change, for all of its troubles, can be like flying a kite: It may take time to get it going, but once it's in the air, it can be a lot of fun. ❁



A Touchstone Energy® Partner



DREAM.
SHINE.
ACHIEVE.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SHINE THE LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

All Students Attending or Planning to Attend Higher Education*

Application deadline is **April 15, 2022.**

Contact Kristy Smith:
888-581-8969, ext. 8507
ksmith@uniteddpa.com
www.uniteddpa.com

*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent. Directors, employees and their families are ineligible to apply.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 13! Set your clocks forward by one hour.



ANNUAL MEETING

Brady Township Community Center
7 P.M.

ATTACHING OBJECTS TO POLES PUTS LIVES ON THE LINE...

NO Basketball Hoops

AND IT'S A CRIME!

NO Signs

NO Fences

NO Birdhouses

NO Satellite Dishes



Lineworkers climb poles at all hours, in the worst conditions. Sharp objects like nails, tacks or staples can puncture our rubber safety equipment, leading to electrocution. While climbing, lineworkers use small spikes, or hooks, to grip the wood of the pole. One misplaced hook caught on a nail or staple will result in serious injury to our lineworkers.



NO Deer Stands

NO

Holiday Decorations

NO

Posters

Keep Yourself, Your Neighbors and Our Lineworkers Safe!

Fixtures not belonging to United Electric will be removed and damage to unauthorized items will not be the responsibility of the Cooperative.

