

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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Know how to stay safe if your car crashes into a power pole

By Joy Bullock

Often your first instinct during traumatic situations may be to flee as soon as possible. A car accident is one example of this. However, if you are in a car accident involving a power pole or line, the safest place is often inside the car.

When a car crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become energized. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in a car accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help, and wait until a South Kentucky RECC professional de-energizes the power and tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle **WITHOUT** touching it and the ground at the same time. To do this, open the car door, rotate your



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body until you are facing out, put both feet on the running board, hop out and land both feet on the ground at the same time.

Do not touch the car when you jump—keep your arms down by your side. Then hop away with your feet together, much like a bunny hop, or you can shuffle your feet in tiny steps, with your feet never leaving the ground and as close together as possible. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body. Don't run! Never lift a foot. Keep bunny

hopping or shuffling away until you are at least 40 feet away from your vehicle and any downed power lines.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.

South Kentucky RECC Safety and Loss Control Manager Eric Chumbley says this information is of utmost importance and is exhibited at all SKRECC Safety Demonstrations with the live-line demonstration trailer.

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“It’s imperative that this information be shared with everyone in your household, regardless if they drive or not. It’s as important for the person that comes upon the scene of an accident involving one of South Kentucky RECC’s pole or lines to know how to stay safe, as it is for the person inside

the vehicle. South Kentucky RECC cares about the safety of its members and others, and we don’t want to see anyone get severely injured or lose their life by not knowing what to do in this situation.”

Chumbley urges everyone to visit the co-op’s web site at www.skrecc.com

to watch a video on what you should do if you are ever in an accident involving electric poles or wires. See page 41 for more information.

Accidents can happen in an instant. South Kentucky RECC wants everyone to be prepared should one ever happen to them. **DSK**



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Kevin Newton named COO

Long-time South Kentucky RECC employee Kevin Newton has been named the co-op’s Chief Operations Officer.

South Kentucky RECC CEO Ken Simmons says no one is more deserving of the title of COO as Newton.

“It gives me great pleasure to announce that Kevin Newton is South Kentucky RECC’s new chief operations officer. Kevin is so very positive and supportive of this co-op. Not only did he serve as the interim CEO prior to my hiring, but he has greatly assisted me as I have navigated this first year at South Kentucky RECC—one of the most trying years for not only the co-op, but the country as a whole.”

Newton is a licensed professional engineer and served as the president of

the Kentucky Statewide Engineering and Operations Association. Newton completed the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program, a six-week program through National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association that provides in-depth analysis of the functions and processes of co-op management and emphasizes practical applications of these competencies. He also served six years on the Somerset/Pulaski County Development Foundation.

Newton says he looks forward to his new role at the co-op.

“I am honored to continue to support South Kentucky RECC, its members and our employees as we remain a steadfast fixture in the communities we serve.”

Newton, who previously served as vice-president of engineering and



operations, has been employed by SKRECC since 1993; however, prior to that, he also served as a summer worker.

Equal employment opportunity policy statement

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity employer. To ensure full implementation of this policy we will adhere to the following standards:

- Persons will be recruited, hired and promoted for all jobs without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or protected veteran status.
- Placement decisions will be based solely on an individual's qualifications.
- Other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs, and cooperative-sponsored programs and activities will be administered without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or protected veteran status.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation provides equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. Harassment of any individual because of a disability or protected veteran status will not be tolerated. Employees and applicants will not be subject to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination because they have filed a complaint; assisted in any activity related to the administration of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), 38 USC 4212, or the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002; and/or exercised any other right protected by the Acts.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation also has had a long-standing commitment to provide a work environment free from all forms of sexual harassment. Any substantiated incidents of sexual harassment by a management or supervisory employee or co-workers

will result in immediate disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of every employee to bring to the cooperative's attention any evidence of sexual harassment so that the matter can be promptly investigated and appropriate action taken.

As the president and CEO of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, I, Ken Simmons, fully support our affirmative action programs, and I will work to ensure that our equal employment opportunity policy is being implemented at all levels. Each manager of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. If you have a question about South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation's policy, would like to view relevant portions of the affirmative action programs, or feel that you have been a victim of discrimination or harassment, you should contact South Kentucky RECC's human resources department.

Scholarship opportunity

2021 W.I.R.E. Scholarship

The Kentucky Chapter of Women in Rural Electrification (WIRE) is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to Kentucky college students.

The scholarships are open to any applicant who meets the following criteria:

- Student or student's family must be served by a Kentucky rural electric cooperative.
- Student must have completed at least 60 credit hours at the end of the 2020 fall college term.
- Student must attend a Kentucky college or university.

Applications can be found online at www.kyelectric.coop. The scholarship application deadline is June 14, 2021. Scholarship recipients will be notified in July.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, career goals, recommendations from professors and community leaders and financial need.

Applications should be returned to Mary Beth Dennis, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, PO Box 32170, Louisville, KY 40232.



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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



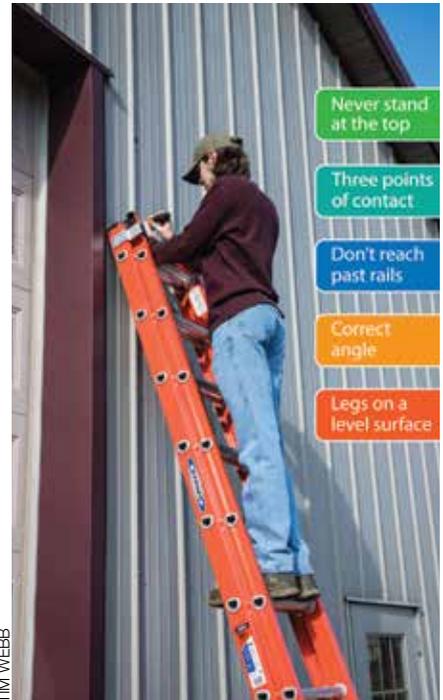
Use ladders safely this spring

With the arrival of spring, many people begin thinking about sprucing up around their houses, which oftentimes includes the use of a ladder. Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries nationwide, which is why it is so important to use ladders safely. Misuse of a ladder can put you at risk of permanent injury or death.

Picking the right ladder for the job is the most important step. Choose a ladder that can sustain four times the maximum load and inspect your ladder before each use for defects.

To stay safe make sure you:

- Place your ladder on solid, level ground.
- Contact the local utility before working near overhead lines.
- When using an extension ladder, extend the top 3 feet above the landing. Find a friend to hold the base or tie it off.
- Keep the base free of work materials.
- Always face a ladder when climbing or descending and maintain three-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).
- Never stand on the top or at the first rung.
- Set the ladder at the correct angle (one quarter of the vertical length from the wall).
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead lines.



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Remember to never overreach. You might tip sideways or cause the base to kick out. If your belt buckle is outside the side rails, you may be in danger.

Be extra cautious if you need to raise materials or equipment to where you are working. Instead of carrying items up in your hands, use a tool belt or a rope to get what you need up to your work site.

South Kentucky RECC wants you to be safe. Remember to always look up and locate power lines to avoid contact.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 14!
Set your clocks forward by one hour.