

Editor, Sarah Fellows

**Featured above: Ft Knox Apprentice Line Technician
Matthew Speaks, 1 year of service**

Comments from the President and CEO

Safety above all else

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, our communities have recently experienced an unprecedented effort to keep each other safe. We have recognized that each of us impact the health and well-being of those around us. While the experience of a pandemic is certainly unique, this focus on safety is not new to Nolin RECC.

Over time, Nolin has worked to create a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. Our mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job. Nolin employees follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our line technicians to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our line technicians follow when dealing with electricity. We have a safety team that monitors and tracks near-misses of accidents in order to understand

them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

We are proud to say that in March we were able to celebrate a year without a lost-time injury. That is a significant accomplishment; one that shows the commitment to safety by all of our employees.

We encourage all of our employees to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. Nolin conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. We also work with our first responders to help keep them safe as they protect and serve.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and

electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact us.

Lastly, in the spirit of keeping our communities safe, there is nothing any of us can do now to better protect each other than keep our distance. In this time of great uncertainty and social distancing, let's recognize that many in our communities are going through a difficult stretch. Whether that's related to economic downturn, loss of employment, or worst of all, being physically unwell at a time when the health care system is operating beyond its capacity, let's strive to be patient with each other and look out for the well-being of our neighbors. United we stand—six feet apart.



Greg Lee
President & CEO

For pool safety, be sure your equipment is working properly

Before summer arrives, pool owners should perform an electrical safety check before opening their pools to swimmers.

Your swimming pool is equipped with lights, pumps and other electrical equipment. Be sure this equipment is in good working order now.

Look out for underwater lights that are not working, flicker or function intermittently. Upgrade older pool lighting to modern safety standards. The older the lighting, the greater the risk. No one should enter the pool until a licensed electrician has looked at the problem light, determined the issue, and fixed it.

Be sure to report and fix any

missing or loose caulking. This can allow water to get behind the walls of the pool, increasing the likelihood of water coming into contact with a live electrical component.

Have your licensed electrician show you all circuit breakers connected to the pool's wiring because if an electrical incident occurs in your swimming pool, you may need to shut off the circuit immediately.

When it comes to pool safety, inspection, detection and correction can save lives.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Nolin cares about you and your family. Enjoy your pool by staying safe at all times.

STORM RECOVERY

Downed power lines are a threat to the area around them.

If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. Keep a distance of 40 feet, as the ground around downed power lines may be energized.

Assume all downed power lines are live. If you see someone in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch him or her. **Call 911 for assistance.**

If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line

while you're in the vehicle, stay inside the car. If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons—jump out and away from it, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle away with your feet touching until you are at least 40 feet from the vehicle. Never attempt to get back into a vehicle that is in contact with a power line.

If your vehicle hits a downed power line, STAY IN THE CAR!



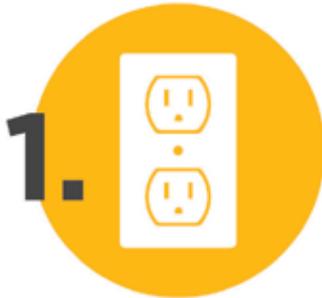
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4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.



Safety is our priority.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, but our commitment to safety lasts all year.

Nolin RECC Compliance Coordinator Wes Poynter tests ground terminals at Nolin's Fort Knox facility. Grounds act as a safeguard for line crews in the event of accidental energization and are tested regularly. This practice is one of many in place to protect Nolin employees as they serve our members.
Photo: Sarah Fellows

HOW TO REACH NOLIN RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE — 1-855-356-6359

FOR EMERGENCIES — (270) 765-6153

Website: www.nolinrecc.com
email: comments@nolinrecc.com

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