# Stay back and stay safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for your electric co-op, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help!

#### Distractions can be deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them

focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety,

you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize your electric coop employees by their uniforms and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

#### Slow down and move over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road (it is the law in Arkansas, in fact). This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

Thank you so much for helping us keep you and our workers safe while providing you with reliable and affordable power for your homes and businesses.





## Retirement congratulations!

Chuck Copland, retired in June as Safety Coordinator for C & L after working for the cooperative for 26 years.

Chuck and his wife, Daisy have two children, Brandy (Jason) Crain and Brittney (Anthony) Sites. They also have four precious grandchildren, Josh and Ben Crain, and Lily and Grayson Sites. Chuck is looking forward to having time to enjoy their hobbies.

C & L employees and directors wish Chuck the very best in his retirement!

# **HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING**



Each year, 3,800 people die from drowning.

Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers.

There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger.

The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



### **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:**

#### **Swimmers**

- Never swim near a boat or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water. tell someone and swim back in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

### **Boat Owners**

- Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually. GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL- Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.

## IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



THROW A LIFE RING



DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention