



It's lightning season! Protect your family and your home

Summer is almost here, and often-times that means peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena — lightning! Of course, lightning strikes year-round. However, our love of the outdoors and the frequency of thunderstorms make summer the most likely time to be killed by lightning.

According to National Weather Service statistics, more than 70 percent of lightning fatalities occur between June and August.

Lightning strikes more than 400 people in the United States annually. About 60 of those die, and many more are left with devastating and permanent disabilities.

As a result of these numbers, the National Weather Service and Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative would like to remind our members: "Lightning can kill — so remember, when thunder roars, go indoors."

To avoid being struck by lightning, we recommend that you:

- Get into a fully enclosed building or hardtop vehicle at the first rumble of thunder.
- Stay indoors for 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Monitor the weather forecast when you're planning to be outdoors.
- Have a plan for getting to safety in case a thunderstorm moves in.
- Do not use a corded phone during a thunderstorm unless it's an emergency; cell phones are safe to use.
- Keep away from plumbing, electrical equipment and wiring during a thunderstorm.

Don't be fooled by blue skies. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining, even if you don't see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance. A good idea is to use the "30-30 Rule." If you count less than 30 seconds between a

lightning flash and the thunder following it, you should seek shelter from the storm. A smart thing to do is count your 30 seconds inside, away from all threatening weather. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If you're caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in a building, follow these precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows and avoid contact with electrical-conducting paths such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter or radio.



Bob Matheny
SVEC President/CEO

- Avoid water, high ground or open spaces.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicle such as Jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- Do not stand near power, light or flag poles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat low to the ground and put your head between your knees, making yourself the smallest target possible.

SVEC also reminds you that summer storm season is the time to make sure that your home and valuable electronics and appliances are protected from electrical surges that are possible during a thunderstorm. SVEC is again running its summer "FREE installation" promotion through June.

"The Shield" Surge Protection Program includes meter-base protection as well as plug-in devices for your more voltage-sensitive equipment.

See the story on page 17 for more information on SVEC's efforts to protect your home from lightning damage.



Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all or portions of Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Coffee, Hamilton, Rhea and Van Buren counties.

Service Centers:

512 S. Cedar Ave.; P.O. Box 31,
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Telephone — 423-837-8605
Toll-free — 800-923-2203

97 Resource Road; P.O. Box 518,
Dunlap, TN 37327
Telephone — 423-949-2198

3396 Main St.; P.O. Box 441,
Pikeville, TN 37367
Telephone — 423-447-2131

14002 Highway 41; P.O. Box 100,
Tracy City, TN 37387
Telephone — 931-592-2511

14087 Highway 28,
Whitwell, TN 37397
Telephone — 423-658-7832

After hours: 888-421-7832

SV Propane
877-521-3055 (toll free)
931-592-5126

www.svalleyec.com



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

www.ourenergy.coop



Lightning arresters — another tool in improving reliability

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative's primary goal is the delivery of safe, reliable electricity to our members.

In order to accomplish that goal, we use many tools. Last month we featured the infrared scanning program used to locate "hot spots" and find areas in need of maintenance *before* there is a service interruption.

This month, with the beginning of storm season, we would like to explain lightning arresters.

A lightning arrester is a piece of equipment that looks much like the insulators on the crossarms of utility poles. Most people are familiar with insulators and probably think that the arrester is just another insulator.

The lightning arrester's function is to divert the high voltage from a lightning strike or other disturbance on the power line from hitting critical equipment such as transformers, reclosers, regulators, insulators and the overhead and underground conductor (wire).

One end of the arrester is connected to the power line, the other to a ground wire. When a lightning strike hits the

line, the arrester provides a short circuit to the ground, preventing the voltage from hitting the protected equipment. The closer the arrester is to the equipment it is meant to protect, the better.

When the strike is successfully diverted, your lights stay on; the arrester has done its job. The main factor in the success of the arrester or any kind of surge protection is the quality of the "ground."

If the soil in which the ground wire is buried is very rocky, dry or otherwise non-conductive, there isn't a good path along which to divert the stray voltage — in other words, there isn't a good "ground," and damage may still occur. That is why it is important to periodically test the quality of the "ground."

Just as our system needs to protect all 37,000 or so of our transformers, our members need to take precautions to protect the appliances and sensitive electronics in their homes with a surge protection system.

Plug-in devices are available at many retail outlets, but to be properly



Although a lightning arrester looks like an insulator, its purpose is very different.

protected, your home needs to be protected at the meter base *before* the surge enters the home.

If you are not currently participating in "The Shield" Surge Protection Program, consider signing up before June 30 to receive FREE installation.

Protect
your home and
your wallet ...

with "The Shield"

Surge Protection Program from



Sequachee Valley
Electric Cooperative.
Call your local SVEC office
for details.

**Free installation
through June 30!**





SVEC mourns the loss of co-op 'family' members

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative staff and members are saddened by the recent passing of two of our own in the Pikeville area.

Retired SVEC District Manager Joe Hatfield died Saturday, Feb. 20.

Three weeks later, on Saturday, March 13, our SVEC family was again struck hard by the loss of lineman Richard P. "Ricky" Brown in an automobile accident.

A native of Pikeville, Hatfield served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He joined SVEC in 1947 as a laborer and worked his way up through the ranks. He retired 45 years later as Pikeville district manager.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy Clark Hatfield.

He is survived by a daughter, Mary Ellen Hatfield, Pikeville; a son, Joe (Peggy) T. Hatfield Jr., Douglasville, Ga.; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; sisters Minnie Lee Curtis, Pikeville, and Ann Green, Whitwell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Brown joined SVEC in 2002 as an apprentice lineman after several years as an electrical contractor and a state of Ten-

nessee deputy electrical inspector. He had completed his apprentice training to become a full lineman.

His grandparents, Clinton Brown and Clarence and Jewel Perry, preceded him in death.

He is survived by sons Seth, Chase and Drake Brown; parents Richard "Dick" and Judy Brown; sister Gina (David) Boynton; brother Perry Brown; and grandmother Mauvine Brown, all of Pikeville.

A memorial scholarship fund has been set up to honor his memory. Contributions may be made at any Citizens Tri-County Bank branch or at First National Bank in Pikeville or Dunlap.



Joe Hatfield



SVEC linemen brought out the line trucks to bid farewell to fellow lineman Ricky Brown.



Ricky Brown

SVEC now offering Midland weather radios

Don't let extreme weather catch you unprepared! Early warning is your best protection, and now with Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative's special low price of **\$34.95 plus tax**, you can afford to have a weather alert radio from one of the most respected names in the field.

The peace of mind that comes with knowing that you are doing everything possible to protect you and your loved ones from the dangers of extreme weather is priceless, but SVEC's special low rate makes it an even better investment.

Call or stop by your local SVEC office for more information or to purchase your Midland weather radio and sleep easier tonight!

Tornado
Bushfire
Nuclear Hazard
Civil Emergency
Fire Storm Warning
Child Abduction
Severe Weather
Hurricane

Over 60 Automatic Alerts

Early Warning is Your Best Protection

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH MIDLAND'S
ALL HAZARD WEATHER ALERT RADIO

NOAA Public Alert MIDLAND

Recommended by the Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness.



SVEC welcomes new District 11 director

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative recently welcomed Pikeville resident Travis Smith to the board as the new District 11 director.

Smith, a physical therapist and owner of Omni Rehab, fills the seat left vacant by Bobby Collier, who resigned to seek another elected position.

Smith, a native of Bledsoe County, holds a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation science and a master's in physical therapy from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He has worked as physical therapist for nine years. He began his career working for a company based in Chattanooga, but he and his business partner bought out that company in 2007 and brought it to the Sequatchie Valley. They now have offices in Dunlap and at the Erlanger-Bledsoe facilities in Pikeville.

Smith stated that when he began to talk about opening an independent business, people tried to talk him out of it because of the economy and the failure rate of small businesses. But he wanted to come home to start his business. It is his goal to see the Val-

ley boom. He believes that it can be done with some hard work.

"I wanted to become a part of the SVEC board of directors because I believe that the co-op has done more to support the economic development of the area in the last 100 years than any other entity," Smith said.

"I think that working with the co-op is a good fit for my goal of seeing my home county grow.

"SVEC and the Tennessee Valley Authority have a long history of providing reliable, affordable electricity. In these times of skyrocketing prices and unsure availability of electricity as was seen in California a few years ago, reliable, affordable power is a major drawing card to attract potential industries.

"I believe that SVEC working with local and county governments can attract new businesses and revive our local economy.



Travis Smith

"Since I have been appointed to this position rather than elected, I want to spend the year left on my term getting to know the people of the 11th District and gaining their trust. I hope that when this seat comes up for re-election, I will have proven myself worthy to remain on the board."

Smith and his wife,

Elizabeth, and their two children — Jack, 6, and Audrey, 10 — live on a small farm in the Upper East Valley Road area of Bledsoe County where they raise cattle and fruit trees.

"Farming is what I hope to do when I retire, but I do enjoy working on the farm in what little spare time I have now," Smith said.

Smith and his business partner also spend a lot of time as volunteers with the local high schools in Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties, helping with sports medicine issues, especially during football season.

In-Home Energy Evaluation program provides energyright® solutions for all kinds of homes

Whether your energy-efficiency problem is a 27-year-old heat pump that has been patched until it can't be patched anymore, cold air coming in around your windows and doors or insufficient insulation in your newer home, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority's new In Home Energy Evaluation has an energyright® solution for you.

For a \$150 fee, you can schedule SVEC's energy adviser to come to your home to check its overall



An In-Home Energy Evaluation can help locate your home's most critical energy needs.

efficiency and make recommendations for improvements you can make. If you follow through with those recommendations and spend at least \$150 on qualified improvements,

you will be refunded your \$150 fee. If you choose to spend even more on improvements, you may choose either a refund for half of what you spend on qualified improvements —

up to \$500 — *or* low-interest financing to help you pay for those improvements.

Call your local SVEC office or visit www.svalleyec.com for more information.





Local youths attend Leadership Summit in Nashville

Dylan Hankins of Bledsoe County High School and Hillary Curtis of Grundy County High School were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 15-17 in downtown Nashville.

"The annual summit teaches students about the important roles of electric cooperatives in Tennessee's rural communities and provides an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding students attend the summit this year," Jackson said. "It's no surprise, really, considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip. Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

Hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide, the 2010 summit's theme was "The Magic of Leadership."

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Cathy Black, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative communications specialist. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 15, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2009 Miss Tennessee Stefanie

Wittler and Tennessee Titans cheerleader Lindsey Roznovsky.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 16, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza to meet



Above is Rep. Eric Swafford, left, with Bledsoe County High School's Dylan Hankins. At left, from left, are Rep. Bill Harmon, Grundy County High School's Hillary Curtis, Hankins and Sen. Eric Stewart.

their state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. Motivational speaker Lynn Hodges, a former Tennessee Valley Authority employee, gave the keynote address, "The Magic of Choice," before TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram. Johnson answered questions submitted by the students, and Callis explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the State Capitol and moved on to Legislative Plaza, seeing state government in action and posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol. Hankins and Curtis met Reps. Bill Harmon and Eric Swafford and Sen. Eric Stewart during the Capitol photo session. Harmon presented each with a certificate and a "Tennessee Blue Book."

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students attended a Nashville Predators hockey game at Bridgestone Arena followed by a tour of Tennessee's capital city. Finally, the busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve. Students got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives from the "Mission Possible" activity. Then they were divided into teams and competed in "M.A.G.I.C." (Mastering A Game of Interactive Cooperation), forming their own co-ops and working together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies — power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Later, they put together all they'd learned, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition. Trent Sanders, founder and president of Leaders Across America, brought the three-day event to a close with his address, "Road to Success."

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," said Bob Matheny, president/CEO of Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative. "We want them to be able to appreciate their electric cooperative and understand why it was so important to form electric cooperatives in the first place."