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## Harvesting Safely

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job, and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Pitt & Greene EMC, safety is top priority for all, our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

➤ **Safe clearance.** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping

and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

➤ **Filling grain bins.** High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

➤ **Moving equipment near grain bins.** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Pitt & Greene EMC reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Pitt & Greene EMC's engineering department at 252.753.3128 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.



## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.





## The Power of Preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.



- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location known to family members.

### Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented during severe weather and may wander off.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

**At Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.**

# Claim Your Capital Credits Check

Below is a list of those who have unclaimed checks with Pitt and Greene EMC. To claim your monies, please call JMS Advisory Group at 1-888-912-8533 and select extension 105 for Kelly Evers. You must call by October 1, 2022. If satisfactory claim is not made by this date, the monies will be escheated to the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer whom all other claims must be directed.



Aguirre, Alonso  
 Alling, Amanda Victoria  
 Barnes, Crystal W  
 Barrett, Charmaine Lacole  
 Battle, Arenda K  
 Beaman, Donald B  
 Braswell, Pamela Denise  
 Bynum, Natoshia Layvett  
 Crawford, Robin Evon  
 Downes, Leonard  
 Draughn, Malaisha Ashee  
 Dunn, Brenda Kay  
 Edwards, Bertie Wells  
 Ellis, David D  
 Exum, Willie Earl  
 Fields, Akeyla Lawaun  
 Foreman, Willie Ray  
 Francis, Sonya Lee  
 Gomez, Victor J Uriarte  
 Gooding, Herman Lee

Hill, Codey Jorden  
 Kane, Michael S  
 Lancaster, Michael Jake  
 Lanier, Kristin Nicole  
 Lindsey, Brittany Cherelle  
 Madera Madera, Alvin Omar  
 McDaniel, Steven  
 McMillan, Shauna Lee  
 McPhillips, Christopher Justin  
 Merrill, Ashley Lynn  
 Meyer III, Walter Warren  
 Moore, Delores  
 Mosley, Ella Barrett  
 Murray, Timothy L  
 Newton, Annie Ruth  
 Newton, Christa Baker  
 Parsons, Robert Christopher  
 Pittman, Cynthia Sutton  
 Potter, Amber Nicole  
 Robbins, Mildred Owens

Rose, Suzanne Dixon  
 Shelter, Moses  
 Shovelin, Jeffrey Dennis  
 Shreve, Denise B  
 Simpson, Brandon Jean  
 Smith, Colleen Kristan  
 Speight, Catherine Barnes  
 Speight, Johnny Ray  
 Streeter, Ashley Renee  
 Sutton, Larry Eugene  
 Sutton, Sylvia  
 Tapia, Rodrigo Gutierrez  
 Taylor, Cecil B  
 Turnage, Amber Lynn  
 Ulrey, Natalie F  
 Wallace, Donisha Ronchele  
 Webb, Raymond M  
 Williams, Pamela Holloway  
 Williman, Neatha E

## Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.

**4** Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

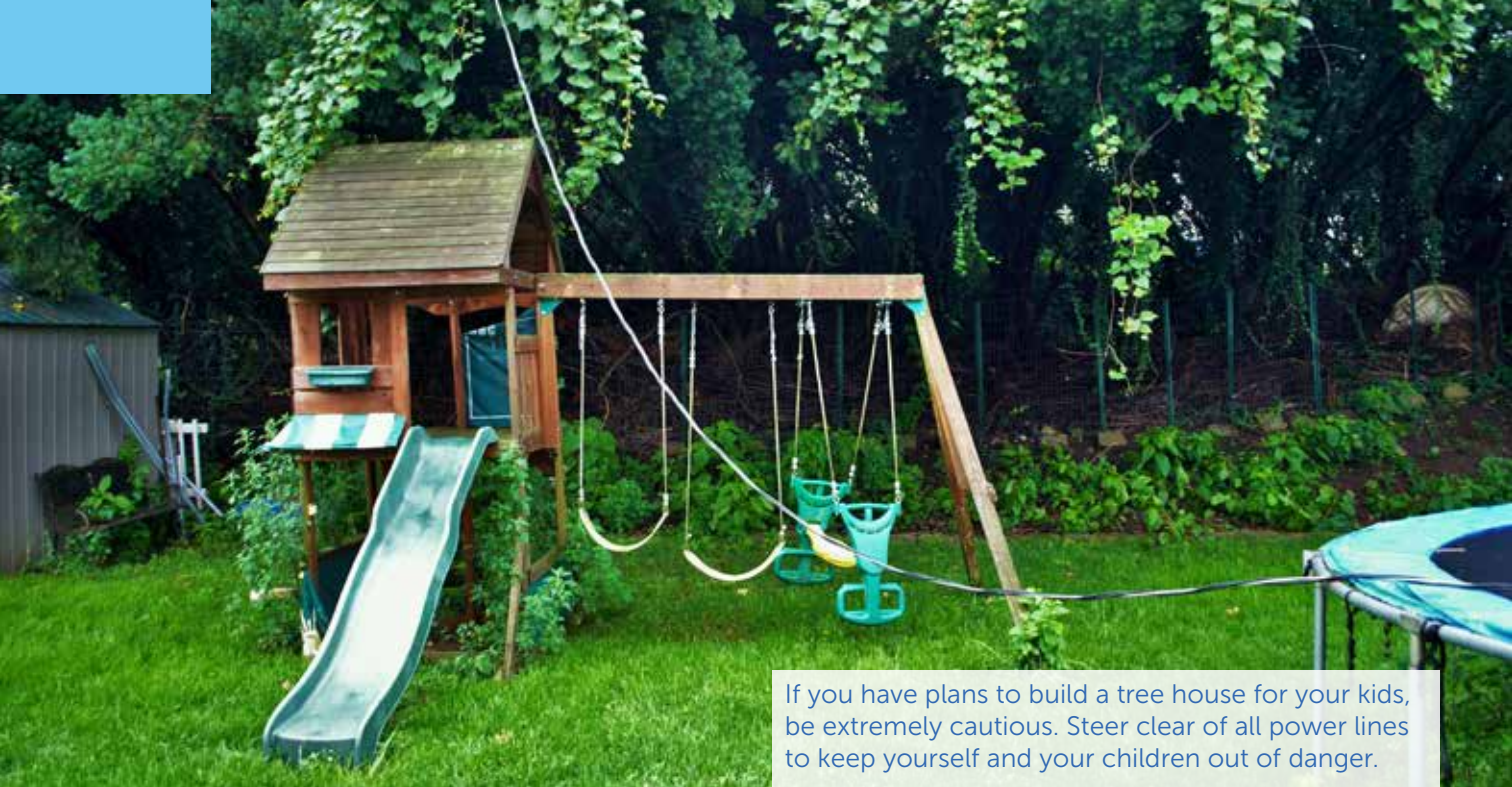
**24** OR **48** Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

**When in doubt, throw it out!**

A power outage can happen at any time. Know the proper food safety precautions to take in the event of a prolonged power outage.

## More from the General Manager...

We recently revamped our billing statements, and many have asked about the new line item on your bill that shows the monthly facility charge. With upgrades to our software by our IT vendor we can now separate the various items that make up your monthly bill. We want to do this so you can see the items that make up the final balance of your bill each month. The facility charge reflects the cost for poles, lines, substations, transformers, etc. that are needed to bring power to your home. It has always been a part of your bill and now we can show that on a separate line.



If you have plans to build a tree house for your kids, be extremely cautious. Steer clear of all power lines to keep yourself and your children out of danger.

## Power Line Safety

Fall officially begins September 22 and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home’s exterior a fresh look, but there’s one thing many people don’t consider before they start their landscaping projects—power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, familiarize yourself with this list of power line safety tips:

- Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. Your Co-op has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren’t too close to power lines, but if you happen to see any that may look too close, call and report this to Pitt & Greene EMC.
- If you have plans to build a tree house for your kids, be extremely cautious. Steer clear of all power lines to keep yourself and your children out of danger.
- Remember, ladders are conductors of electricity. It’s best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn’t

inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.

- Call 811 before you dig, even if it’s just to plant a tree or shrub, to identify where underground utility lines are buried. Digging around lines can cause serious injury or even death, as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding NC 811, please visit [nc811.org](http://nc811.org).
- The Electrical Safety Foundation International (EFSI) reminds you to “Look up! Look Down! Look Out!” This motto is especially important if

your field of work requires you to be in the vicinity of power lines because contact with power lines can be deadly.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you’re around power lines. Call our office at 252-753-3128 if you have any questions about power line safety.



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**Co-op Office Hours**  
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

**POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES**  
During weekends, holidays and  
after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

**CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:**  
Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina:  
252-753-8778