

Lyon REC News

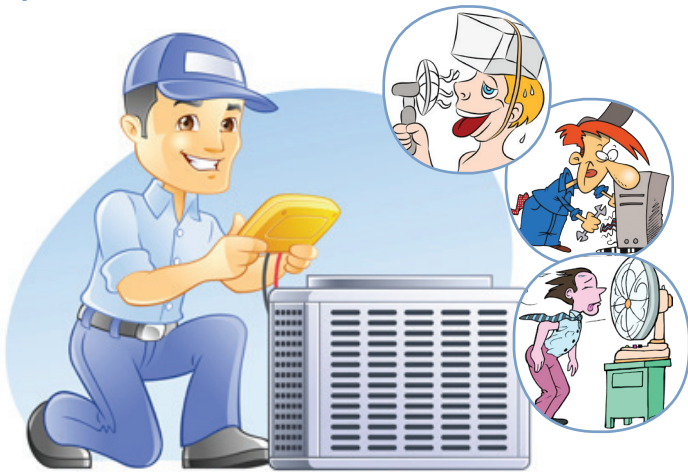


JUNE 2021

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Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5 REASONS TO HAVE YOUR A/C TUNED UP THIS SPRING



Neglecting to maintain your air conditioning unit not only puts your family at risk of getting caught without cool indoor air on a sweltering summer day, it can unnecessarily cost you extra money.

Here are 5 reasons to get your air conditioner checked this spring:

- ① Prevent a breakdown. A well-maintained air conditioning unit is less likely to break down unexpectedly when you have a house full of Fourth of July company or are enjoying a staycation at home with your family.
- ② Spot needed repairs. Like your car, a unit that is regularly tuned up will reveal small problems that the tech can repair before they become big ones or even ruin the device.
- ③ Keep it running efficiently. A qualified service check will make sure your unit doesn't have any problems that are keeping it from operating efficiently. An efficiently operating unit doesn't have to work as hard as one with problems, so it uses less energy. That can save you money on cooling bills.
- ④ Extend its life. A new a/c unit isn't cheap. If you keep yours in good shape, it will live longer, which means you won't have to shell out for a new one so soon.
- ⑤ Feel comfortable. An air conditioner that isn't working well might not cool your home evenly or enough. During a regular visit from an a/c repair tech, you can explain which rooms never seem cool enough.

SAVE MONEY THIS SEASON

Spring is a great season to save a few bucks on energy bills.

It's a season that isn't always warm enough for air conditioning or cool enough for heat.

So turn both of those devices off and take advantage of some natural ways to keep your home comfortable this spring. Here are some ideas:

Open the windows. If you have windows on both sides of the house, open them both to create a cross-breeze, especially at night.

Invite the sunshine in. Open drapes and blinds on slightly chilly days so warmth from the sun can waft into your home and warm it up. On hotter days, block the sun by covering your windows. Letting the sun in can also make it unnecessary to turn as many lights on during the day.

Adjust ceiling fans. When the weather turns warm, your fans should create a gentle breeze that makes people standing in the same room feel comfortable. You can create that breeze by flipping the switch on your fan that changes the direction the blades rotate from clockwise to counterclockwise.

Cook outside. Fire up the grill or invest in a tabletop electric grill, and fix dinner outdoors. It's pleasant for the cook and it feels like a picnic for the rest of the family.



**Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
will be closed Monday, July 5, 2021
in observance of Independence Day.**

VIRTUAL WEDDINGS: HERE TO STAY?

The pandemic changed a lot of wedding plans for a lot of brides and grooms, leading them to exchange vows in front of a laptop computer as their guests watched it on their own computers from their own homes.

Some wedding planners say virtual ceremonies could stick around long after the pandemic has run its course.

An article in Insider quoted one planner who is working on fall 2021 weddings for couples who are considering hosting their big day online. Others said many brides and grooms who plan to walk down the aisle in person will livestream the ceremony for those who can't make it to the venue.

As a result, a cottage industry has emerged for businesses offering digital wedding accessories like customized websites, live chats, virtual guestbooks and Spotify playlists.

Videographers are using several cameras to switch angles during the ceremony or to zoom in on the couple or someone reading a scripture.

Others are putting cameras into the living rooms of virtual guests to show them toasting the happy couple or dancing to the music that the happy couple is livestreaming for everyone to enjoy at home.

The virtual wedding is still new, but wedding planners told the magazine that they eventually could become "as mainstream as hiring a photographer."



CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WITH SAFETY

Most dads love power tools, and they're easy to find and order online.

Help the father in your household celebrate Father's Day with the gift of a new tool-and some advice for using it safely.

Here are a few common-sense precautions to take when using electric tools:

- ✓ Read the instructions that come with the tool. Even if you have used similar tools in the past, heed safety warnings.
- ✓ Equip the garage, basement and outdoor outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupters before starting work in those areas. GFCIs can prevent a tool-user from getting shocked or even electrocuted, especially in areas that are prone to dampness.
- ✓ Inspect tools-even new ones-before and after using them. Wear and tear can damage tools. Damaged tools can catch on fire or malfunction in a way that can harm the user.
- ✓ Don't use power tools near gasoline, paint thinner or any other flammable liquids.
- ✓ Clean up work areas so sawdust, shavings and other debris don't become a fire hazard.



BUYING A DISHWASHER? CONSIDER THIS

If your dishwasher has gone on the fritz permanently and you're in a hurry to replace it, you might want to slow down, just for a minute.

New dishwashers are so much better than the ones you considered when you bought your old one. Consider the bells and whistles, cost of operation and sales price before you buy. Here are five questions to answer before handing over your credit card:

1. Is the model you are considering energy efficient? The more efficiently the dishwasher operates, the less energy it will use. The less energy it uses, the less you pay for energy, and the less harm it does to the environment. A dishwasher with an Energy Star label is guaranteed to save energy, cost you less in electric bills and protect the environment.
2. Is it quiet? Often, the more you spend on a dishwasher, the quieter it will be. If you have ever had to move your after-dinner conversation out of the kitchen because you couldn't hear anyone over the hum of the dishwasher, you will be more than happy you invested in a quiet model this time.
3. Does it clean the dishes well? If you want to skip the pre-wash step of scraping food from your plates, invest in a dishwasher that is equipped with a power-spraying cycle. And look for one with a disposal or filtration system that will prevent food particles from clogging the dishwasher's drain or pump.
4. Does it suit your lifestyle? If you live alone or with just one other person, it could take more than a day to fill the dishwasher. Instead of letting dirty dishes sit until the food dries on them and starts to smell, choose a dishwasher with a quick rinse cycle that sprays a tiny bit of water on the dishes to eliminate both problems. Or take a look at dishwasher "drawers" that are just about as big as the top rack of a normal dishwasher so they fill up quick. They also take up less kitchen space than full-size units.
5. Do you like "smart" appliances? A smart dishwasher connects to your home's wi-fi so you can turn it on, lock it or change the settings using your smart phone, even if you're not in the house.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at
www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

By Abby Berry

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Non-Discrimination Statement

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked. This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these handy tips:

- ✓ Don't allow yourself or anyone else to swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.
- ✓ Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- ✓ If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
- ✓ Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.
- ✓ Have GFCIs installed on your boat, and test them once a month.
- ✓ Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- ✓ Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- ✓ Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
- ✓ Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- ✓ Electric Shock Drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov



APRIL OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
KWH Purchased	8,993,079	8,331,196
KWH Sold	8,575,691	8,021,587
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	4.21%	3.53%
Total Demand	15,096 KW	14,672 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,298 KWH	1,991 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$226.02	\$211.64
Income Per Mile	\$905.87	\$880.67
Expenses Per Mile	\$878.56	\$908.61
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) . .	5.78¢	6.05¢