

Call before you dig to avoid costly mistakes

Planning to work on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities.

Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

1. NOTIFY: Call 8-1-1 or make a request online at www.sunshine811.com two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT: Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

3. CONFIRM: Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

4. RESPECT: Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers 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 location.

Prepaid billing puts you in control

The PrePaid Program helps you get ahead on paying for your energy use and keeps you from falling behind.

Electricity is paid for up-front, which is similar to putting gas in a vehicle. As the amount of fuel goes down, the driver determines when and how much fuel to add to the tank.

PrePaid means:

- No deposits
- No late payment penalties
- No disconnection fees

Members in PrePaid will receive text or email alerts letting them know how much money is left in their account and about how many days of electricity they have left. Members are encouraged to keep their balance above \$25.

Interested? Contact Clay Electric to speak with a customer service representative.

New electric motor efficiency standards will save consumers billions, DOE says

The Department of Energy finalized new efficiency standards for electric motors that will go into effect in 2027. The agency estimates consumers will save \$8.8 billion over a 30-year period. That's about a \$652 million annual savings for consumers on energy and water bills.

The standards are the result of an agreement among advocates, manufacturers and utilities.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Nick Jones at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: NJones@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, July 27 and Thursday, Aug. 24 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

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Solar power: Do your homework

Pushy salespersons making misleading claims continue to be a factor in solar energy sales. We've heard about it happening to our members, and it's certainly happening elsewhere as rooftop solar panel installers continue with aggressive marketing campaigns and sales tactics aimed at deceiving people into spending tens of thousands of dollars

As attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for their particular situation, homeowners must undertake their due diligence.

As your trusted energy adviser, Clay Electric can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. When choosing a solar company, make sure it is one that considers your best interest. Some solar companies have one objective – to sell its products and services. We will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home.

Is rooftop solar right for you?

Clay Electric's energy analysts will look at the:

- Overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- Age and pitch of the roof
- Orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building
- Tree coverage near the home/building
- Weather patterns

When helping members determine whether rooftop solar is right for them, the energy analyst will also discuss the many financial considerations with the system.



Have plan in place for when storms strike

Hurricane and storm season are in full swing. Summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes — they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 mph.

While the forecast team at Colorado State University has predicted a slightly below-average level of activity in the Atlantic basin this season, the CSU Tropical Meteorology Project expects an average of 13 named storms, and the team predicts a 22 percent chance of a major hurricane making landfall on the East Coast, including the Florida peninsula.

Remember, the hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, and everyone should have a plan in place. To help, we've mailed you the 2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, which you can find a link to on ClayElectric.com by scanning the QR code to the right, or by going to the homepage, clicking the "Reliability & Resoration" tab, then "Storm Center."

Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, such as a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate — having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts — either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio — and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are



Stay away from downed power lines and poles. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.

possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.

- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the storm

- If the power is out, conserve your cellphone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Scan code with your smartphone to download the **2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide**



ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON: JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

**WE'RE READY.
ARE YOU?**

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS GUIDE**