

We're ready for severe weather season. Are you?

The months of March through May are considered spring severe weather season. But let's face it, severe weather can occur during any month of the year in Arkansas.

C & L Electric works hard to provide you with the most reliable power possible. When severe weather disrupts service, we're ready and prepared to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. Safety protocols are a big part of our storm preparedness.

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

Start your preparedness plan by signing up for local weather and emergency alerts. Make sure you know how to report outages to us. Outages may be reported 24 hours a day, and you can view our outage map on our website. Remember to report an outage any time your power is out, and do not assume others have reported it. Check our Facebook page to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness. Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, protein 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, cellphone power banks and a 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, 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 traveling through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for our crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by weather events and can lessen the impact of the effects. We can never predict Mother Nature's plans, so be alert and stay safe. Act today and make your preparedness plan.

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Retirement congratulations

Tim Boykin, Right-of-Way Crew Chief for C & L, retired on Jan. 4, after 32 years of service. Tim, the son of Maycell Boykin and the late Reece Boykin, grew up in Star City.

Tim and his wife, Sherry, have one son, Tony (Megan), and one grandson, Alex Boykin.

Tim is looking forward to working on his old cars, traveling with his wife and becoming the "greatest grandpa" ever known.

C & L employees and directors wish Tim the very best in his retirement.



HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Outages may be reported 24 hours a day by one of the following methods:

- Call 1-855-881-8093
- View our [Outage Map](#) at [clelectric.com](#)

Update your contact information

Correct contact information helps us serve you better during an outage. Call our office at **870-628-4221** during regular business hours to update your contact information.

Confirm the outage

Before reporting an outage, please confirm it by checking lights and appliances in all rooms. If you still have power in some areas, most likely a fuse or a circuit breaker in your house has blown. If all lights and appliances are off, please report the outage immediately.

Once you report the outage, please do not report the outage again unless an emergency arises.

During the outage

- During a prolonged outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics to avoid damage in case of a power surge. This will also prevent overloading circuits during power restoration.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed. If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage, a full freezer will hold its temperature for 48 hours, and a refrigerator will keep food safe for four hours, according to [usda.gov](#).
- If using a generator, make sure to follow the manufacturers guidelines to operate it safely.

After the outage

- Give the electrical system a chance to stabilize by gradually reconnecting any appliances you previously disconnected. When the power first comes back on, turn on only the most essential appliances, and wait a few minutes before reconnecting others.
- Check food for signs of spoilage, such as unusual odor, color or texture. Don't take chances with food you are not sure about. When in doubt, throw it out!

STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing



First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

Five ways to save energy when working from home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home:

1. Use a smart power strip.

Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.

2. Unplug your least-used equipment.

If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

3. Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment. If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. Flip the switch, and use natural light instead. It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let in natural light — and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!



When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light into your workspace.

5. Adjust the thermostat. Home heating and cooling makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Adjust the thermostat a couple of degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months and 78 degrees or warmer during the summer months. The smaller the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, the less energy you will use to heat or cool your home.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills. Whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Visit energy.gov for more energy-savings tips and energystar.gov for a list of certified energy-efficient products.

