



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

March 2024



1.877.394.7804    
hillcountyelectric.coop

## Utility Poles Are Not Bulletin Boards

The skill to climb poles and perform duties, sometimes nearly 40 feet in the air, is unique to linemen. It requires mental strength, attention to detail and proper training and equipment. Items like signs posted on utility poles can impact the stability of the poles over time and create distractions.

Utility poles are private property that are owned by electric and telephone companies. Hanging signs on utility poles is generally not allowed and it can even create potentially life-threatening hazards for our linemen. Another danger is the damage that is done to the pole. Over time water can seep into nail holes and damage the pole. Eventually the pole deteriorates and will need to be replaced, creating another expense for HCE.

Attaching streetlights, clotheslines, flyers, weather stations and metal objects to utility poles can pose a hazard for linemen when they are trying to repair or maintain these poles. Do not use utility poles as fence posts. Nails or staples can interfere and cause damage to clothing and safety straps, an essential tool for climbing. Items posted on utility poles can impact their stability over time. Any piece of metal in a pole can hinder the ability of the linemen's climbing hooks, also known as gaffs, to dig into the wooden pole. If a gaff kicks out while a lineman is on the pole, it increases the risk of a fall which could cause serious injury or death.

Why can't you build under power lines? Anything too close to high-voltage lines can cause electricity from

the lines to "flash" or cause a short circuit. Do not lift, elevate, build, or pass under a power line with any object, tool or vehicle that



could make contact or near-contact with wires. For your own safety, it is recommended that equipment, antennas, and people stay at least 14 feet away from energized power lines.

Most codes require a certain amount of clearance around the pole to allow for maintenance and replacements. Most codes do NOT allow you to fence in the pole. Regulations for gas meters, water meters, electrical boxes (for underground wiring) and cable boxes are all subject to codes as well.

Linemen require various tools and equipment that are essential to safely perform their job including a bucket truck, hard hat, rubber gloves, arc-rated clothing, gaffs that sink into the poles and leg shanks that hold the gaffs in place. The equipment allows our linemen to climb poles safely. While not easy to see leftover staples, tacks and nails can cause significant danger to our linemen. It not only poses a threat to our linemen, but also to the public because it can put you in danger of being around energized electrical equipment.

Please be safe and remember that your safety and the safety of our linemen is of the utmost importance. Stay safe and stay healthy.

## Six basic rules for ladder safety

- 1 Use the right ladder for the job. It is important to choose a ladder that has the proper load capacity for the job.
- 2 Inspect the ladder before and after use.
- 3 Set the ladder up correctly.
- 4 Climb and descend the ladder with caution.
- 5 Be safe and use common sense when using a ladder.
- 6 Ladders shall be used only on stable and level surfaces unless secured to prevent accidental displacement.

### What is the 4 to 1 rule for ladders?

The base of the ladder should be placed so that it is one foot away from the building for every four feet of height to where the ladder rests against the building. This is known as the 4 to 1 rule.



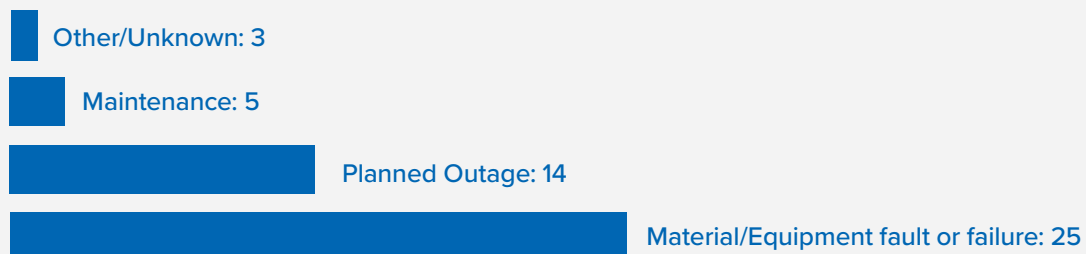
**Always Call Before You Dig.**

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.  
**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Visit call811.com for more information.**

### HCE Happenings

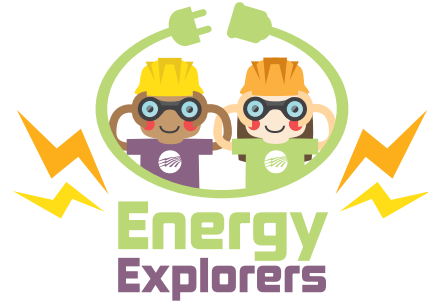
Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately **47** account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



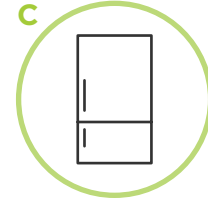
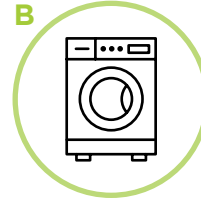
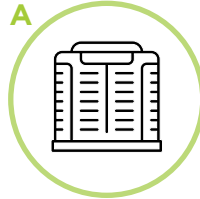
# SPOT THE BIGGEST ENERGY USER

We use electricity every day, but we rarely think about the appliances and electronics that consume the most energy. Can you spot the biggest energy users?

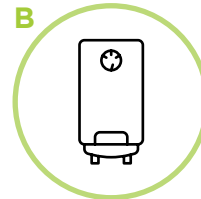
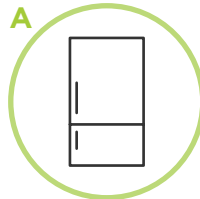
Review each grouping below, then circle the one that you think consumes the most energy. Check your work in the answer key.



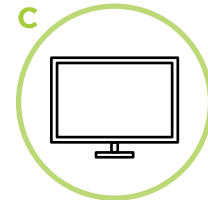
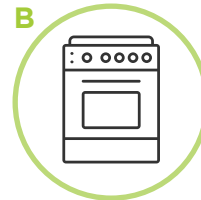
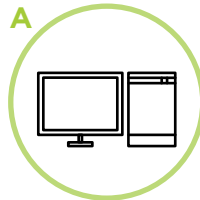
- 1.
- A) Heating and Cooling Unit
  - B) Clothes Washer
  - C) Refrigerator



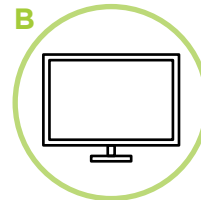
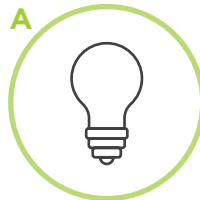
- 2.
- A) Refrigerator
  - B) Water Heater
  - C) Laptop Computer



- 3.
- A) Desktop Computer
  - B) Electric Oven
  - C) TV



- 4.
- A) LED Lights
  - B) TV
  - C) Clothes Dryer



Answer Key: 1. A 2. B 3. B 4. C



### Save Energy!

- Wash clothing in cold water and air-dry when possible.
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Unplug electronic devices when not in use.

# Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

\*Denotes photo available on website

### 2014 Massey Ferguson Hesston 2956A\*

2014 Massey Ferguson Hesston 2956A baler with twine and net. 11,486 bales, well maintained and shredded. Asking \$20,000, call Don at 406.799.4131 or 406.357.4131.

### Tires For Sale

Three Continental 235/54 R18 106 T Cross Contact LX Sport All Season, less than 1000 miles. Asking \$200, call 406.397.3236.

### Mechanics Special

2010 Ford Explorer XLT, excellent body and interior, nice tires, 150,000 miles, needs timing chain replaced. Can send photo, \$2000 or best offer. Retail value approx. \$6,500-\$7,000. Call 406.374.2458.

### Big Foot Pickup Camper

10-foot camper with overhead over pickup cab. Includes queen size bed, sleeps 4. Also has air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, and shower. Asking \$1,500, call 406.301.4035.

### Antique Farmhouse cabinet with countertop\*

Two pull-out cutting board surfaces, 3 drawers, 2 tilt-out bins. One door, no back, 33 1/2" tall x 62" long, 24" deep. Asking \$125. Also selling Antique Wilson oak Hoosier-style cabinet, original hardware and zinc pull-out surface, \$1,200 or best offer. Call 540.624.0502.

### Farm Sink For Sale\*

White porcelain over steel, double basin/double drain. Approx. 62" long, has metal cabinet sides and bottom need work, drawers and hardware in nice shape. Asking \$600 or best offer. Call 540.624.0502.

### TAMKO T-Lok Shingles\*

Up to 12 bundles, 22 shingles to a bundle. Tile red blend color, \$50 per bundle. Call 540.624.0502.

### Hay For Sale

Alfalfa Hay, Alfalfa Grass mix, plain grass, Hay Barley in round bales. Call 406.671.6876, 406.671.6633 or 406.473.2422.

### Sheetrock Lift

Heavy Duty sheetrock lift. Asking \$500, call 406.945.3764.

### Men's and Women's Golf Clubs

One set of men's golf clubs, left-handed and one set of women's golf clubs, right-handed. Both only used once, asking \$50 each, call 406.945.3764.

### 1995 Bounder Class A Motorhome\*

36ft Bounder Class A Motorhome with only 53,000 miles, diesel pusher, LP generator, all new tires, 2 filled propane tanks, 3-way refrigerator/freezer. 3 burner stove/oven, microwave, queen bed, shower/bath/toilet, 2 AC units, LP furnace, lots of storage, well kept interior. Asking \$23,000, call 406.357.3491.

### Whole & Half Pork For Sale

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Taking pre-orders for July, August and September 2024 processing season. Whole pork \$450 plus processing fees, half pork \$250 plus processing fees. You receive approx. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. Delivering processed meat locally and between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Josh or Twyla Knudson by email: noneckfarms@gmail.com or call or text 406.230.2281 or find Twyla Knudson on Facebook.

### Flex coil S1070 Sprayer

2009 model, 1600-gallon tank, tire size 480/80R38. \$10,500 or best offer, call 406.262.3395.

### Two Flex coil Sprayers

567 XL models, 120 ft booms, 1 in good shape and one use for parts. Asking \$10,000 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

### Winkel Portable Cattle Chute

Has options, 30-inch swing gate like brand new, stored inside. Asking \$4250 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

### 1984 Steiger Panther Series IV

KM360 4-wheel drive, SF4 Hydraulics and 8500 hrs. Stored inside for 10 years, new batteries, runs good. Asking \$33,500 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

### Ford Escape Parts Vehicle

2001 Ford Escape parts vehicle. Body and all glass in excellent condition, 4 Wheel Drive is good. Engine blown. Asking \$800, call 406.355.4123.

### 2001 Dodge Dakota

Cab and half pickup, 2-wheel drive, air and 148,000 miles, asking \$2,000. Call 406.378.3131.

### Free Moving Supplies

Flattened boxes (Lowe's small, medium sizes and more. Bags of bubble wrap, air bags, packing paper and foam peanuts. Hobson area, call 540.624.0502.

### For Sale or Trade

300 Rem. WinMag, 26" Barrel, Timney trigger. Trade for youth model 7mm08 or 308. Call 406.932.4057.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.