

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative

2022 WREC ELECTRIC RATES  
PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY  
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# Connections

WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Play It Safe Around Power Lines!

### Practice outdoor electrical safety with these simple tips

Hazards associated with electricity outdoors primarily arise from accidental contact with overhead electric conductors. Being safe means paying attention to where power lines are located and what you are doing that might provide a pathway for electricity to travel through you to the ground.

#### Overhead Dangers

One of the easiest rules to remember is to simply **look up!**

To avoid electrical hazards, stay away from overhead power lines. Accidents do occur, and below are typical situations:



#### Tree Hazards

Florida has warm winters and wet summers that promote tree growth. Trees and power lines are not a good combination. The leading cause of accidental contact with power lines is tree trimming, trees falling on power lines or children playing in trees. Common sense steps can prevent accidents.

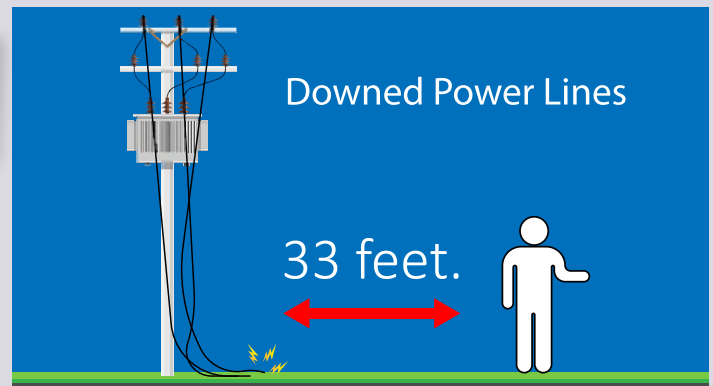
- **Look up!** If you see a wire in the work area, don't take chances. Call WREC at 352-567-5133. We can help you assess the situation.
- Tree pruning can be dangerous. We recommend you contact a qualified arborist who is specially trained to do the job correctly and safely.
- Children should be warned not to build tree houses or play in trees with overhead power lines nearby. Remember, tree limbs contain water and can conduct electricity. Electricity can pass through a branch touching a line, shocking the victim and causing a serious injury or even electrocution.
- Metal ladders and equipment like antennas are excellent conductors of electricity. **Look up** and make sure you keep equipment at least 20 feet away from overhead lines.

#### Work Near the Home

- **Always call 811 before you dig** so that underground utilities can be marked. It's the law and could prevent a dangerous accident.
- Beware of anything metal or conductive material around power lines. Keep in mind you don't actually have to touch the power line to get into trouble. Electricity can "jump" to a conductor such as a ladder if brought close to an energized power line. Keep metal objects such as aluminum ladders, tree-trimming equipment, metal antenna installation and spans of aluminum field irrigation pipe at least 20 feet away from power lines.
- Never attempt to open an underground transformer cabinet or enter an electrical substation. Stay clear of any damaged underground facilities and equipment just as you would an overhead problem.

#### Work Away From the Home

- Stormy weather brings the possibility of downed power lines. If you see any



downed or damaged power lines or equipment, stay at least 33 feet away and call your local WREC office.

A downed power line doesn't have to spark to be dangerous. A power line can be dangerous even if you're not touching it. Water, metal, tree branches, concrete or other materials touching the wire can conduct electricity from a power line to you. **If you see a downed power line call 911 and your local WREC office.**

#### Other Safety Tips

- If a power line falls on your car, stay in the vehicle until help arrives and the power is turned off. You should be safe as long as you remain inside the vehicle. If possible, drive your car clear of the electrical hazard. If the car cannot be moved and no life threatening issues are present, stay in the vehicle. If you try to get out and touch the ground and the electrified car at the same time, you will complete the circuit to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted. This is known as touch potential. If you have to get out of the vehicle due to fire, jump clear of the car with both feet together. When you have escaped the car make sure that you keep your feet together at all times, shuffle or hop far away from the vehicle and power line.
- Kites and power lines do not mix. Warn children to never climb poles or a tree that is near wires to rescue a kite. **Call WREC at 352-567-5133 for help.**

"Safety of our employees, our Members, and the general public is our main focus at WREC. We all have a responsibility to keep each other safe and healthy. Remember to LOOK UP, call before you dig, and always stay clear of downed power lines."

Jamen Monbarren, WREC Safety Director

## 2022 WREC Electric Rates

Due to increasing fuel prices, WREC has increased the fuel charge for 2022. All other charges are unchanged (*Customer Charge, Energy*). This charge is a pass through cost and WREC does not make any margins on fuel. WREC always strives to keep its rates as low as possible while providing and delivering safe, reliable power to our Members.

(Based on 1,000 kWh)	2020	2021	2022
<b>Customer Charge</b>	34.16	34.16	<b>34.16</b>
<b>Energy</b>	51.63	49.89	<b>49.89</b>
<b>Fuel</b>	33.50	30.00	<b>40.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119.29*</b>	<b>\$114.05*</b>	<b>\$124.05*</b>

*\*Does not include Florida Gross Receipt Tax.*

## PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is necessary and are most commonly used during cleanup or recovery efforts following disasters such as hurricanes or tornadoes.

1. Never connect a generator directly to an electrical system of a structure unless it was properly installed by a qualified electrician and has an operable transfer switch.
2. Make sure the generator is properly grounded and that all connections are clean, dry, and secure.
3. Keep the generator dry; do not use it in the rain or wet conditions. Do not use electrical equipment that has been submerged in water.
4. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never use the generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages, basements, or crawl spaces. When using outdoors keep away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) and other gases to enter and build up in occupied spaces.
5. Before refueling, shut down the generator and let it cool. Do not store fuel in your home. Keep fuel away from living areas, flame producing and heat generating devices such as; generators, gas water heaters, cigarettes, lighters, and matches.



### To Report An Inoperative Or Malfunctioning Street Light

Please call your local Cooperative Office, OR you may also log on to [wrec.net](http://wrec.net) and click on the **Repair Street Light** button, then complete and submit the **Street Light Repair Request Form**, or you can download the **SmartHub® app** and request a street light repair.

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VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: [wrec.net](http://wrec.net)

Your Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Dade City to conduct the business of the Cooperative and its' subsidiaries.

**LEGAL NOTICE:** *Operation Round-Up* is a Registered Trade Name for **WRECares**. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration #5C-02353. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. 1-800-435-7352.

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- WREC OFFICES -  
PASCO:

Billy E. Brown Corporate Center: 352-567-5133 - P.O. Box 278, Dade City, Florida 33526-0278  
One Pasco Center District Office: 352-588-5115 | New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813-979-9732  
Bayonet Point District Office: 727-868-9465 | Land O'Lakes/Odessa: 813-972-9233

CITRUS: Dunnellon: 352-489-6818 | Crystal River District Office: 352-795-4382

HERNANDO: West Hernando District Office: 352-596-4000

POLK: One Pasco Center District Office: 863-687-4396 | SUMTER: Bushnell: 352-793-7813

