

Be safe with your generator

Clay Electric wants to remind generator owners that improper use can create extremely dangerous conditions — especially when electricity is backfed into the co-op's distribution system. This can lead to serious injury or even death for an unsuspecting utility worker, neighbor or family member.

Important reminders:

- Never wire a portable generator directly into your home's breaker panel or wall outlet connected to your home's electrical system.
- Always plug appliances directly into the generator's outlets or use a heavy-duty extension cord rated for outdoor use.
- Review your generator's safety and operating manual before using it at home.

Some members opt for permanently installed standby generators. According to electrical codes, these systems must be connected to a transfer switch that safely separates the generator from the external power grid while in operation.

Need help?

For more information on properly installing portable or standby generators, please call 1-800-224-4917.



SERVICE CHECKLIST

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Make sure we can access your gate

During emergencies, time is critical. If your property is gated, please ensure our crews can get in — whether by providing access codes or keeping gates unlocked when safe to do so.

Turn on SMS notifications

Enable text message notifications via MyClayElectric so you'll receive real-time updates during an outage, including restoration estimates and confirmation when power is restored. This also allows us to alert you to a planned outage.

Keep your meter(s) clear

Remove any obstructions around your electric meter. This ensures our crews can safely and efficiently access your equipment.

Taking these small steps now can make a big difference, especially when storms hit. We appreciate your help in keeping the system resilient and your power reliable.

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 on June 26, July 22 and Aug. 21 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

June 2025

Help us keep your power reliable

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: our mission is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your homes and businesses — backed by outstanding customer service.

As we shared in last month's issue of The Kilowatt, our vegetation management crews are hard at work removing low-hanging branches that could cause outages, especially during severe weather. Trees remain the leading cause of service interruptions in our area.

With June marking the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season — and another active year predicted — we want to make sure you're prepared. Thunderstorms are part of summer here, and a few simple steps now can help us restore power more quickly and keep the lines of communication open during any outage.

Make sure information is up to date

Confirm that we have your current phone number, email address and mailing address. This allows us to reach you quickly with outage updates and estimated restoration times.

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Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Not just out west: Florida's fire risk is real

You've probably seen it on TV or read the headlines this year: wildfires blowing through sections of the western United States, burning homes and businesses, forcing families to leave and overwhelming emergency responders.

While most of the country has been focused on the west, we've seen from experience that the risk of wildfires doesn't end at regional borders. In Florida's densely wooded and rural areas, wildfires remain a persistent and genuine risk.

Your cooperative takes this risk very seriously. Perhaps most effective of all in doing so is vegetation management — trimming and clearing brush around power lines on a regular basis to avoid fire risks. Recently, we featured in May's issue of *The Kilowatt* an article focused on our vegetation management program, which is critical for risk reduction and maintaining system reliability.

We also invest in grid hardening — strengthening lines and equipment to resist weather and lessen the risk of equipment-related fires.

Still, safety is a shared effort, and there are things members can do — and should do — to be part of the effort.

- **Fully extinguish campfires.** Douse with water and stir the ashes repeatedly until cold. Do not leave behind a smoldering fire.
- **Don't burn on dry or windy days.** Even tiny flames can ignite huge problems when conditions permit.
- **Keep a defensible space.** Remove dead branches and debris from 30 feet of your home and any structures.
- **Be careful with equipment.** Trimmers, chainsaws and mowers are capable of throwing sparks. Operate them during the morning and ensure you maintain them properly.
- **Respect fire limitations.** Always review local burn bans or advisories before lighting any fire or open flame.

It doesn't take much to spark a fire, but these tips ensure you're doing your due diligence. With the first day of Summer on the horizon, I hope you and your family enjoy the season!

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

1 Caulk

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 Weatherstripping

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 Insulate

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

