# Your Bill Deserves a Break Too

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR SUMMER VACATION, PREP YOUR HOME FOR ENERGY SAVINGS



re you making a to-do list before heading out for summer break? Prepping your home for being away could save you money on your electric bill. In a few simple steps, you can make sure your home isn't using more electricity than necessary while no one is home.

Follow these tips, and your bill will thank you later!



#### TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR HVAC

Texas summers mean a heavy workload for your HVAC unit, which can account for more than half of your electric bill. While you're away, turn the thermostat up to cool your bill down! Set it around 85 degrees to manage the humidity without running up your bill unnecessarily.



#### **TELL YOUR WATER HEATER TO RELAX**

With no one home to use the hot water, there's no reason to waste electricity keeping it heated to the normal temperature. Lower the temperature by 10-20 degrees or turn it to the "vacation mode" setting if available.



#### **LET YOUR ELECTRONICS UNPLUG**

Electronics and small appliances can use energy even in standby mode. Before you leave, unplug them to avoid using electricity.



#### THE WINDOWS DESERVE A LITTLE SHUT-EYE

Closing the curtains, shades, and blinds will help prevent sunshine from adding unnecessary heat to the house, reducing the load on your HVAC even further.

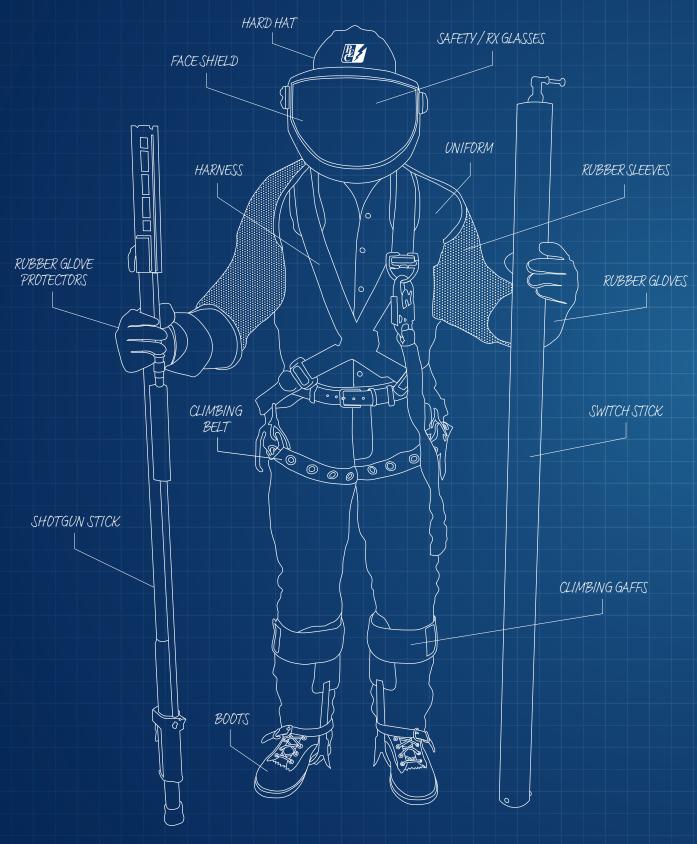


#### **LIGHTS OUT!**

The most obvious tip can be the easiest to forget! Hit the lights on your way out. If you have security lights that need to run while you're away, consider putting them on a timer so they don't use electricity during daylight hours.

That's it! If your bags are packed, you're ready to go. Want more energy-saving tips for the summertime? Visit myPEC.com/savings.

A LOOK AT THE MODERN LINEWORKER'S GEAR



powering over a million Central Texans takes more than just a flip of a switch. Our lineworkers rely on specialized gear designed to protect them from fire and arc flashes. Take a look at some of their essential equipment — which weighs over 50 pounds when worn all together. These tools play a crucial role in keeping our lineworkers safe on the job!

#### **HARD HAT**

A key piece of personal protective equipment (PPE), hard hats shield crews from falling objects. PEC's white hard hats feature our logo on the front and apprentice progression stickers on the right.

#### **FACE SHIELD**

Used in areas where arc flashes are possible — like substations or around transformers — these shields protect our crews from getting burned if one of these sudden electrical discharges occurs.

#### SAFETY/RX GLASSES

These industry-rated glasses help protect the eyes in the event of an arc flash or if harmful particles like sand or certain chemicals are airborne.

#### **UNIFORM**

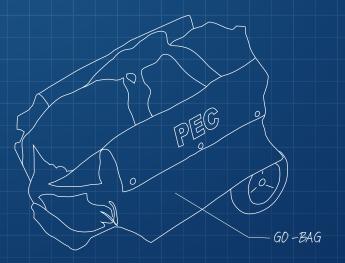
More than just a blue shirt with a PEC logo, our uniforms are fire resistant and protect our lineworkers from weather and electricity-related hazards.

#### **HARNESS**

When climbing or up in a bucket, harnesses are equipped with trauma straps and lanyards to keep crews secured while up on the power poles.

#### **RUBBER SLEEVES AND GLOVES**

Worn around energized equipment, these help protect against electric shock.



#### **RUBBER GLOVE PROTECTORS**

Always worn over insulating rubber gloves, these provide mechanical protection against cuts, abrasions, and punctures.

#### **LEATHER GLOVES (NOT PICTURED)**

Gloves should be worn when using knives on the job, whether for unboxing material, retiring old poles and equipment, or framing or setting new, de-energized poles.

#### **SWITCH STICK**

Switch sticks are "hot sticks" that allow lineworkers to maintain safe distances when operating fuses or switches on energized equipment.

#### **SHOTGUN STICK**

Another type of "hot stick" tool, these allow the lineworker to safely grip conductors or disconnect switches.

#### **CLIMBING BELT**

Lineworkers must wear their fully equipped PEC-issued belts to stay safe on a climb.

#### **CLIMBING GAFFS**

These spikes that attach to the lineworker's legs add more stability when gripping the pole while climbing.

#### **BOOTS**

Not your everyday boot, these are typically composite or steel-toed, rated to protect against impact and electric shock, and compression resistant.

#### **GO-BAG**

These bags carry the tools used by our lineworkers in the field. They're typically made with reinforced box stitching and a nylon material for heavy-duty storage.

## **Meet Your PEC Board Candidates**

### THIS YEAR, MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS 4 AND 5 WILL VOTE TO ELECT THEIR BOARD DIRECTOR

As a PEC member, your vote determines the direction and leadership of our cooperative. The voting period for eligible members is from May 21 to June 13 at 5 p.m. The bios of the candidates, who are shown below, are available online at myPEC.com/election.

If you're eligible, you can vote in a number of convenient ways, including by accessing your account online via SmartHub, by mail, in select PEC offices, using the link emailed to you, or by scanning the QR code included in the ballot that is mailed to you.



Michael Trentel



Travis Cox

### **DISTRICT 4**



John Barksdale



**Dan Strack** 



Todd H. Votteler

Alice Price

#### **DISTRICT 5**





Douglas A. Vandiford II Milton Scott Powell

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

**2025 PEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Friday, June 20, at 9 a.m. 201 S. Ave. F Johnson City, Texas

Newly elected board members will be seated and cooperative leaders will provide a business update. The annual membership meeting will take place immediately before the June PEC board meeting.

myPEC.com/annual-meeting



## CAMP BEGINS THIS MONTH!

ENGAGE IN ONLINE ACTIVITIES, BUILD AND RACE SOLAR CARS, MEET A LINEWORKER, AND TAKE THE EGG DROP CHALLENGE!

et ready for an electrifying summer, campers! PEC is teaming up with local organizations and libraries once again to bring you fun, hands-on learning experiences with Camp Save-a-Watt.

This year's virtual camp for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade kicks off June 2, with engaging videos and activities to be posted on myPEC.com/camp. Inperson events will also take place, where young campers can meet our lineworkers,

explore bucket trucks, and learn more about electrical safety. Our mascot, Wattson Raccoon, will also be making special appearances!

As part of our Meet a Lineworker events in Bertram and Buda, campers will get to put their creativity to the test by designing and building a contraption at home to protect an egg that will be dropped from a bucket truck! Event dates are below, and you can find more info at myPEC.com/camp.

#### **MEET A LINEWORKER DATES**

- ▶ **Liberty Hill** Friday, June 6, at Liberty Hill Public Library
- ▶ **Bulverde** Wednesday, June 11, at Mammen Family Public Library
- ▶ **Bertram** (with Egg Drop Challenge!) Friday, July 18, at Joann Cole Mitte Memorial Library
- ▶ **Buda** (with Egg Drop Challenge!) Tuesday, July 29, at Buda Public Library

#### **SOLAR CAR DERBY**

Our annual Solar Car Derby will again take place at Putters and Gutters in Marble Falls on Thursday, June 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Children will have a chance to design, build, and race their own solar car!

Don't miss out on a summer of fun with Camp Save-a-Watt. We can't wait to see you all!