

Watch out for power equipment when you go hunting this fall

Watch out for power lines and power equipment as you watch out for wild game this fall.

Each year, electric utilities spend thousands of dollars repairing equipment and power lines that have been struck by a stray bullet. Sometimes the damage isn't detected until an unexplained outage occurs.

To keep both yourself and power equipment safe this hunting season ...

- Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.

- Never use power poles to support a tree stand. When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you do not make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.

- Never shoot at birds on nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause a lot of damage to the electrical system and even power interruptions.

- Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure that you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency. Always carry emergency supplies with you, including a cell phone, whistle and flashlight.

- Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.

- If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it inside a cabin or RV. Make sure that it is used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.

Source: safeelectricity.org



2021 Ripley Power and Light Calendar

We're already gathering dates and pictures for the 2021 calendar. If the public is invited to an event you have scheduled in 2021, send your information to Tracy Etheridge at tracy@ripleypower.com by November 1. If you have pictures you would like to share with Power and Light customers, send them to Tracy by October 1. Pictures should be high resolution. If taken by a cellphone, send the highest resolution option that you have.

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.
- Monday, October 12, for Columbus Day.
- Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, for Thanksgiving.



Pay your bill online and more ... at ripleypower.com

Office Hours & Locations

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at ...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
www.ripleypower.com

Ripley

POWER AND
LIGHT COMPANY

Fall 2020

Investing in our communities

Whether it's maintaining traffic lights or supporting economic development efforts, Ripley Power and Light Company works behind the scenes in many ways to partner with the communities it serves.

One of those efforts is the annual in-lieu-of-tax payments it makes to Lauderdale County and the local municipalities the utility serves. (See chart, below, for the 2020 distribution of funds.)

The amounts are determined by a formula, which is audited by TVA and Ripley Power and Light. The funds come directly from operating revenues, which are received from the sale of electricity to customers.

"The money we pay is based on the net plant value we have in each of the communities we serve," said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light. "The net plant value includes lines, poles and other equipment. It's our contribution because we don't pay taxes, and we want to pay our part."

As a public utility, Ripley Power and Light is exempt from paying taxes.

"This is not a mandate," Allmand said. "By law, this is the only way a city can receive funds from us. It is our investment in our communities."

Here are more ways, Ripley Power and Light helps local communities. The utility ...

- Works with TVA, HTL Advantage and the West Tennessee Industrial Association to help existing industry and attract more jobs.
- Maintains street and traffic lights.

- Offers scholarships to students who attend Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee Martin-Ripley Center.
- Works with communities to install outdoor lighting in public areas.

For more information, visit the "About Us" section at ripleypower.com.



Mike Allmand,
President and CEO
Ripley Power and Light

In-lieu-of-tax payments provide funds directly to local governments

2020 Distribution of Funds

City of Ripley:	\$380,388.45
Town of Halls:	\$20,419.04
Town of Gates:	\$3,318.68
Town of Henning:	\$5,261.36
Lauderdale Co.:	\$118,854.45
Total Distributed:	\$528,241.98



We have all kinds of ways to save money on energy use

You really don't have to spend a lot of money to save money on your energy bills this fall and winter. We've gone to key websites like energy.gov and TVA.com to find some of the easiest – and best things

you can do around your home to cut back on your energy use. And, it doesn't make a difference if you rent or own your home or apartment. Instead, the difference is in what you're willing to do to save.

1. Look outside

Take advantage of heat from the sun. Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. And if it is still balmy fall weather, turn off that heating unit, open windows and enjoy.

2. Track your energy use

Participate in Ripley Power & Light's Prepay Program and you can easily keep track of your energy use. Each morning, you will receive an email or a text message telling you the balance on your prepaid account. By comparing it to the previous morning's balance, you can follow your energy use.

3. Appliances

Whether you are shopping for a new television or washing machine, always look for ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. They may cost a bit more, but you will save much more than the cost difference over the life of the appliance. For example, new ENERGY STAR washers use about 25 percent less energy than conventional models.

4. Lighting

If you are still using incandescent light bulbs, it's time to switch them out to LED lights, which use 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer. By the way, you really should turn off lights when you won't be using them for awhile.

Thinking ahead

Christmas season is three months away. When you start shopping for Christmas lights, be an energy Scrooge and buy the energy-saving LED lights.

5. Electronics

Plug your computers, printers, TVs and other electronics into power strips, and turn off power strips when equipment is not in use. With Halloween approaching, let's call them vampire electronics because they continue to use electricity when we don't know it.

6. Bathroom

Do you run the bathroom sink water as you brush your teeth? That's not a good practice when you're trying to save on your utilities. You can also save water with aerating, low-flow showerheads.

7. Laundry

Laundry is no one's favorite chore, and it doesn't help that washers and dryers are among the costliest appliances to operate. Since most of us do at least a few loads of laundry each week, it's worth keeping these points in mind: Wash with cold water. Use cold water detergents. Wash full loads. Clean the lint filter on the dryer.

8. Refrigerator & Freezer

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35° to 38°F for the fresh food compartment and 0°F for separate freezers for long-term storage. Oh, you should also make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. You can test this by putting a dollar bill in the door when you close it. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.

9. Heating

Your heating this winter will be the biggest item on your utility bill. You can save as much as 10 percent this winter on heating by simply turning your thermostat back 7° to 10°F for 8 hours a day from its normal setting. Try 68° for when you are sleeping or away from home. Better yet, try 68° for most of the day and then put on a sweater if you get chilly. Early fall is also a good time to get your heating system checked out.

10. Water heating

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of your home's energy use. Reducing your hot water use and using energy-saving strategies can help you reduce your monthly water heating bills. So, turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

