

OCTOBER 2017  
LCEC

# NEWS



**LCEC**  
PEOPLE. POWER. POSSIBILITIES.

## H U R R I C A N E

# IRMA

Nearly two-thirds of all electric customers in Florida were without power by the time Hurricane Irma left the state. After a disastrous weather event, utility companies such as LCEC are faced not only with restoration, but also with rebuilding portions of the electric grid that have been destroyed. We appreciate our customers' patience as our crews, and additional utility workers from across the nation, work to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. And as always, we thank you for the acts of kindness so many of you showed to both to our employees and to each other as we all worked together to respond to this historic storm.



## PEOPLE. POWER. POSSIBILITIES.

LCEC delivers power to more than 214,217 customers in five counties across Southwest Florida. It happens due to the hard-working, skilled, and dedicated men and women on the LCEC team. You can count on them day or night to provide reliable, affordable electricity that has energized communities for more than seven decades. We deliver power that is generated from many sources, but our people power is one form of energy that never wavers.

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

CO-OPS ARE LOCAL

CO-OPS BUILD COMMUNITY

I ♥ MY CO-OP

ELECTRIC CO-OPS LIGHT MERIC

October is National Cooperative Month. Along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide, LCEC pays tribute to members, employees, and the leaders who work day in and day out to provide the advantages of the cooperative business model.

As member-owned and member-controlled businesses, cooperatives commit to meeting the needs of their members and communities, rather than generating returns for distant investors.

Cooperatives commit to meeting the needs of their members and also to building stronger communities. LCEC remains fiscally strong, with most of generated revenue being either returned to our members or reinvested in the cooperative. Those dollars circulate close to home, helping to strengthen the local economy.



### Cooperatives Commit to Trust

Most cooperatives strive to adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the organization, its members, and the community. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that we are a voluntary organization open to all people using our services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second principle, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the cooperative's policies and decisions. Through the fifth principle, Education, Training, and Information, we enable members to contribute to the development of our cooperative. LCEC is governed by a Board of Trustees, each of whom is a member of the cooperative.

### Cooperatives Commit to Community

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for wellness. LCEC is one of the top ten contributors to United Way and supports chambers of commerce, schools, and many civic organizations. Prior to, during, and after the recent impact of Hurricane Irma employees stepped up to prepare, assist, and restore the community as quickly and safely as possible in order to rebuild.

### Cooperatives Commit to Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local, and pay local taxes to help support community services. LCEC is one of the largest employers in Lee County and supports many local and regional business partners.

## Protecting your home and loved ones from electrical hazards

With so many gadgets, appliances, and electricity-dependent devices in our homes, there are many dangers present at any given time. Eliminate the need to worry about electrical dangers by knowing what hazards exist in our homes and how to avoid them:



#### Bad wiring and faulty electric wires

Unless you are a professional electrician, do not construct the electrical wiring in your home. Hire a professional when it comes to your wiring. Periodically, have a qualified electrician check your electrical wires for any damage, wear, cracks, or corrosion.

#### Lightbulbs

Be sure to switch off appliances and have dry hands before switching out light bulbs. Pay attention to wattage information to prevent overheating and potential fires.



#### Extension cords

Don't overload extension cords with too many appliances. Only use extension cords for temporary purposes and use care in where they are placed to avoid tripping or other accidents.

**Dry hands only**  
Never touch any electrical appliance with wet hands. It may take a few seconds to find a hand towel, but electric shock can happen a LOT quicker!



#### Curious tots

Baby-proof all electrical outlets in your home. Babies and toddlers have a natural curiosity. It is up to adults to protect these precious tots from sticking anything into outlets.

#### Keep water away from outlets

Never use a hair dryer, phone, or any other electrical device near water of any kind (pool, bath, shower, wet floor). Remember, water conducts electricity.



For more tips on electrical safety, visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net).

#### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Shaun Ribas of North Fort Myers and Mabel Martinez of Cape Coral.



[www.facebook.com/LCEC1](http://www.facebook.com/LCEC1)

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 214,217 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 (800) 599-2356 or 239-656-2300 • [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)