

## Make time for safety this harvest season

**F**all harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for those who work in the agriculture industry.

This time of year often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and be on the lookout for potential hazards. Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one:

1. Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.
2. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
3. Recognize when you need to take breaks so you can be active and engaged in all your farm work.
4. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers and other tall machinery.
5. Take time to look up and out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment.
6. Keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, if hit or damaged, they can bring down poles and live lines.
7. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
8. If a power line is sagging or low, call the cooperative right away.
9. Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
10. If the machinery you are operating makes contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call the cooperative at 217-774-3986, then 911. Warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power. The only reason to exit machinery or a vehicle that has come into contact with overhead lines is if it is on fire. In this scenario, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything in contact with a power line.

All motorists can help ensure a safe harvest season by anticipating slow-moving equipment on roadways and planning for travel delays, especially on rural roads.

As we recognize National Farm Safety and Health Week this September, please join us in spreading awareness of the risks associated with agricultural work and promoting safe and healthy practices through this harvest season and beyond. This annual promotion, initiated by the National Safety Council, has been reconfirmed by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.





# Balloons will soon fill the skies over Shelbyville

Mark your calendars now for the annual Touchstone Energy® Hot Air Balloon Festival held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze over Columbus Day weekend, October 11-13, in Shelbyville, Illinois.

“There will be plenty of exciting family fun and activities for everyone over the weekend,” noted balloonfest organizer Kevin Bernson.

Pilots from around the Midwest plan to take to the skies with fun flights on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The event kicks off Friday evening at Willow Ridge Winery with food, music, and fun. Come meet and hang out with the pilots. Weather permitting, a couple balloons will launch from the winery and a couple will inflate and light up their balloons at dusk. Soulful country artist Brei Carter will entertain the crowd singing her top songs. There will be food trucks on site so bring your appetite.

Saturday morning, plan on coming out to Shelby County Airport and



watching the balloon pilots participate in the SSI fun task as they fly over the airport playing a game of ring toss with hula hoops. After the downtown parade, come back out to the airport and take a paid helicopter ride from SummerSkyz beginning at 2 p.m.

Saturday evening festivities at the airport begin around 4 p.m. with the free kids’ area sponsored by Family Drug and music by All Kindz of Soundz. Bring your appetite, as the Shelbyville Fire Department will be having their evening cookout fundraiser. Just before dusk, enjoy skydivers from the Mid-America Parachute Club in Taylorville as they land on targets at the airport. To cap off an exciting day, watch the balloons light up the night with the J & R Collision Centers hot air balloon glow (weather permitting). You will also have the opportunity to take a tethered balloon ride for charity. To round out the weekend, the pilots will once again be challenged as they perform the Glenda Sphar Realty fun task over the 9th Street Beach, located at Dam West Recreation Area on Sunday morning. Pilots will attempt to drop a safety ring

into a small kiddie pool.

In addition to all the Balloon Fest activities, the Shelbyville Chamber will be holding the annual Scarecrow Daze on Saturday, October 12, in the downtown area of Shelbyville. There will be crafters, food trucks, entertainment, a beauty pageant, and so much more starting with a parade at 10 a.m. “The parade begins at Forest Park and makes its way to the downtown area. It is the official kickoff for Scarecrow Daze, and we appreciate HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital for organizing the parade each year,” said chamber board member Regina Agney.

“Without great community support, the sponsors, and, most importantly, the volunteers, we couldn’t pull off this exciting family event. We can always use more volunteers, especially to help crew for one of the balloon teams. If anyone is interested, please contact us at 217-774-2244. We offer some great crew prizes,” concluded Bernson.

For a list of the weekend’s activities, visit LakeShelbyville.com. See you in Shelbyville over Columbus Day weekend, October 11-13.

**SHELBY** News

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**Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



# Propane Safety Tips

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Propane tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative. You can reach them by calling 217-774-2311, visit their website at [shelbyenergyco.coop](http://shelbyenergyco.coop), or like them on Facebook@ShelbyEnergyCo.



Shelby Energy Company

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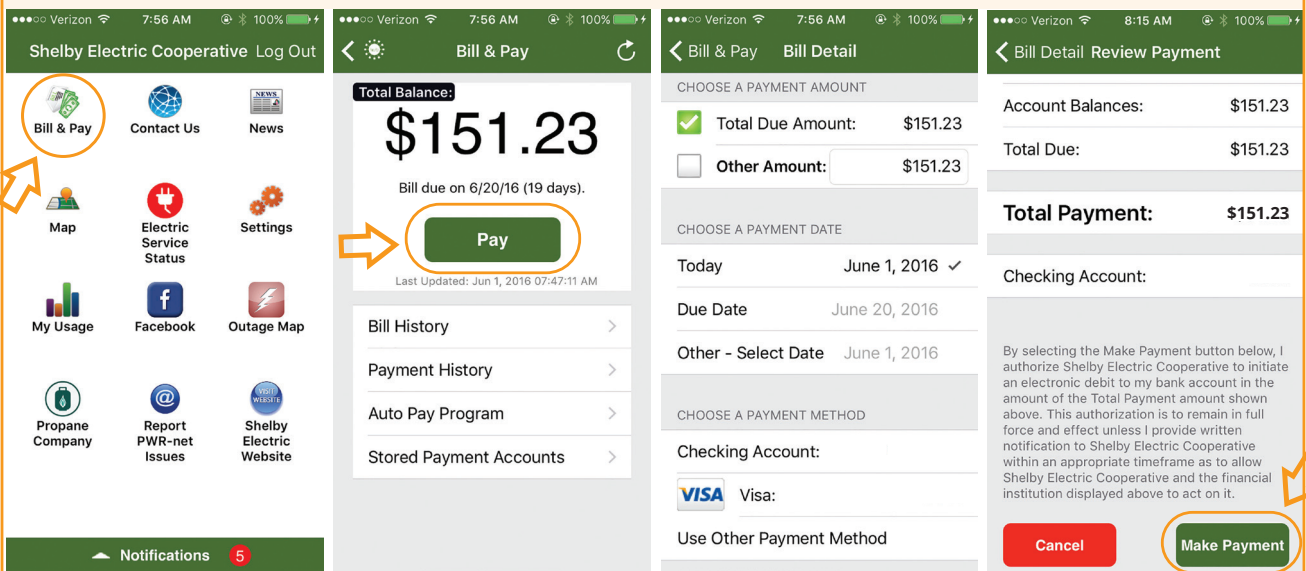
Did you know you can be notified by email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub, which can be found on the cooperative's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop). Just sign in, click on **notifications**, and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub link. You can find SmartHub how-to videos on the cooperative's website and Facebook page.

Download the SmartHub app for your smart devices from your favorite app store. You can report an outage, check your use, communicate with your cooperative, and much more. Download it today!



# Schedule a payment with SmartHub

You may already know all the great tools the SmartHub app provides, but did you know you can now schedule a payment using SmartHub? It is easy! All you have to do is open the SmartHub app, select “Bill & Pay” then select “Pay.” Next, you will have the option to pay the full amount or select another amount you want to pay. Then choose when you want the payment to be made. Finally, choose a payment method and select “Make Payment.” After reviewing your payment, if you made a mistake, just hit the “Cancel” button and start again. Once completed, you will receive a notification that your payment was scheduled. You will receive an additional notification when your payment has been processed. If you do not have the SmartHub app, download it today!



If you pay online, you can also schedule a payment. After logging in, if you choose to pay the full amount, select the “Pay Now” button at the top. Then choose when you want to schedule your payment and the payment method. To make a partial payment select the tab “Billing & Payments,” enter the amount you wish to pay and follow the easy steps. A notification will be sent when a payment is scheduled and when a payment has been received. A link to SmartHub is on the cooperative’s homepage, shelbyelectric.coop.

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