



Anza Electric employees join Heart Association to "Bring Power to Heart"

We all know someone who has some form of heart or cardiovascular disease. It's the leading cause of death, not only in the U.S., but also worldwide.

On May 6, 2017, Anza Electric employees will join thousands of others around the country in the effort to stop this killer by participating in the American Heart Association's "Heart Walk". This fund raising event helps AHA finance educational outreach and research aimed at finding effective treatments to lower the incidence of premature disability and death from heart related illness.

One of every three deaths in the U.S. in 2013 were from heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, while heart disease and stroke were the No. 1 and No. 2 killers worldwide, according to American Heart Association's 2016 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Update.

In the U.S. the data showed:

- cardiovascular diseases claimed 801,000 lives;
- heart disease killed more than 370,000 people;
- stroke killed nearly 129,000 people;
- about 116,000 of the 750,000 people in the U.S. who had a heart attack died;
- about 795,000 people had a stroke, the leading preventable cause of disability;
- among African-Americans adults, 48 percent of women and 46 percent of men have some form of cardiovascular disease; and African-Americans have nearly twice the risk for a first-ever stroke than whites.



Team Anza Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



We invite our members to join us at the Walk (all walkers get a free Team Anza T-shirt!), and to consider donating through our Team Anza website.

A link to the donation site is located on www.anzaelectric.org.

Thank you for helping us Bring Power to Heart!

Find us on Facebook!

AEC utilizes the page for special events, energy savings tips, outage updates and more!



Anza Electric members all pay the price for energy theft

How tempting of a target the electric meter is!

An easy way to save money these days is to reduce your electric bill through conservation. Some folks, however, choose to take the unsafe, illegal route to savings by stealing electricity. Their methods vary widely; the results can be devastating.



Nationally, there are far too many documented examples of fires and electrocutions due to energy thieves. Shoddy tampering with materials improperly designed for use in electrical services can result in overheated wires and exposed energized parts. Arcing and sparking parts, especially during dry, windy conditions can be the cause of fires with enormous loss of property and life.

This illicit behavior is sometimes justified by the perpetrator as being a victimless crime. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a cooperative, we are all victims of this crime. Regardless of whether or not the cost of stolen energy is recovered, it must be purchased from our supplier. The loss of energy theft is absorbed by us all.

The California Penal Code, section 498(a) provides for stiff punishment for energy theft. When the total value of stolen services are valued at more than \$400.00 the penalty can be up to **one year in State prison.**

The typical energy thief has a high opinion of his abilities to steal undetected. This is not true. It may take us a while to find the illegal connection, but we will find it. Our members can help us by reporting suspected meter tampering or energy theft anonymously by calling us at 951-763-4333. **Do not confront a thief yourself.**

Remember, an energy thief is stealing from you.

Take Steps to Prepare for Outages

Despite AEC's best efforts to keep your power on, Mother Nature sometimes has the last word.

Fallen tree branches, swirling winds, freezing rain and heavy snow all can wreak havoc on the power system, toppling poles, bringing down lines and leaving customers without electricity.

To better cope in the cold darkness, make sure your home is equipped with a power outage kit. It should include:

- **A flashlight and extra batteries.** Have a flashlight, oil-or battery-powered lamp or lantern.
- **Candles and matches.** Although you should not carry them around in the dark, candles are safe when set on a flat, stable, nonflammable surface.
- **A battery-powered radio.** If the outage is lengthy and associated with another emergency situation, radio reports will provide regular updates.
- **Emergency phone numbers.** Keep numbers for your utility, doctor, fire department and sheriff easily accessible.
- **A telephone connected directly to the phone jack.** Cordless phones and phones with answering machines rely on electricity to operate. If you have internet service through ConnectAnza, including optional telephone service using VOIP (Voice over internet protocol), VOIP will provide you with telephone service for up to 8 hours if the power is out.
- **A first-aid kit and prescription medications.** Make sure you have an ample supply of all medicines you regularly use. During a storm, road travel may not be possible for several days.
- **Extra blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes.** If you are without heat for an extended period of time, close off one room to live in, and layer clothes.
- **Clean drinking water.** Fresh water is not always available when the power is out - particularly if you rely on a well. Have at least 1 gallon for each person per day.
- **A manual can opener and non-perishable food.** Canned or instant food and freeze-dried meals are good to have on hand, but often require hot water and/or a source of heat to prepare (a camp stove and fuel may be handy, but be sure to use it outdoors). Breakfast bars, crackers, peanut butter, and canned or dried fruit require no preparation. Don't forget paper plates.
- **A cooler for storing frequently used foods.** Foods will keep several hours in a closed refrigerator, and up to two days in the freezer. It will spoil more quickly if the door is opened or the refrigerator or freezer is not full.
- **Firewood and kindling.** If you have a fireplace or wood stove, make sure you have an adequate supply of wood and plenty of matches.



Photo by Mike Teegarden

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