

**CONTACT US**  
Office: 765-473-6668 / 800-844-6668

**WEBSITE**  
[www.mcremc.coop](http://www.mcremc.coop)

**EMAIL**  
[mcremc@mcremc.coop](mailto:mcremc@mcremc.coop)

**OFFICE HOURS**  
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**  
3086 W. 100 N.  
Peru, IN 46970

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
P.O. Box 168  
Peru, IN 46970

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# PRIORITIZE SAFETY

## year-round



At Miami-Cass REMC, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance

of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Miami-Cass REMC hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year to demonstrate the

dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

### FRAYED WIRES POSE A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD.

Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

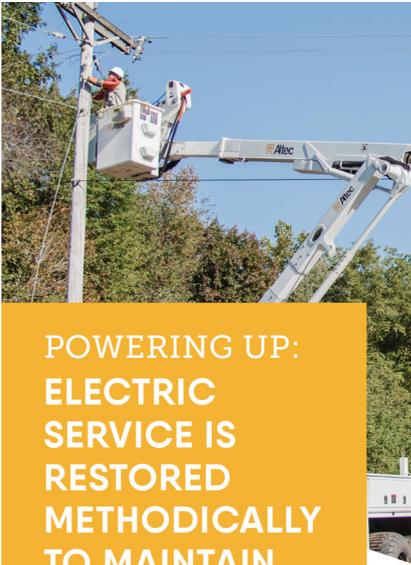
### AVOID OVERLOADING CIRCUITS.

Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.

### LABEL CIRCUIT BREAKERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUITS IN YOUR HOME.

Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years

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## POWERING UP: ELECTRIC SERVICE IS RESTORED METHODICALLY TO MAINTAIN SAFETY

When a major storm causes widespread damage, electricity cannot be restored with the flip of a switch. Here's how it's done methodically, efficiently and safely.

Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power: priority is given to the lines that get the most back in service the quickest. *Repairs start with...*

**Transmission lines.** These high voltage lines carry electricity from generating plants to substations (or between substations). Since tens of thousands of people could be served by one transmission line, damage here needs to be taken care of first.

**Substations.** These electrical facilities contain equipment that switch or regulate the voltage of electricity. They lower the voltage from the transmission lines so the electricity can be transmitted through the distribution lines. Problems here can affect thousands of consumers.



## PLUG INTO SAFETY

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

MAKE ELECTRICAL SAFETY A PRIORITY THIS MONTH, AND EVERY MONTH.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

### USE EXTENSION CORDS PROPERLY.

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Miami-Cass REMC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO

SAVE THE DATE!

# MIAMI-CASS REMC *annual meeting*

PERU CIRCUS BUILDING  
6-8 P.M.



Watch for more information  
in next month's magazine!



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## IN THE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# Layne DeLauter

The most recent addition to the Broadway Broadband Powered by Miami-Cass REMC's team is Layne DeLauter. She started with the company in March as an accounting specialist and is responsible for entering accounts payable, miscellaneous receivables, bank reconciliations, helping with inventory and filing.

DeLauter grew up in Miami County and is a 2011 North Miami High School graduate. After graduating, she studied radiology at IUPUI in Indianapolis. After completing three years and starting clinicals, DeLauter determined that the field was not a career path she wanted to continue pursuing. Therefore, she pivoted and obtained an associate degree in liberal arts from Ivy Tech Community College.

While finishing her degree, DeLauter started working at Beacon Credit Union as a teller. She then trained to become a member services specialist clerk (loan officer) and continued working there for two years.

DeLauter then went back to school part-time at Indiana University Online and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in accounting and finance. She plans to finish her degree in December

2023. From 2018 to March of this year, she worked at Diehl Machines in Wabash where she performed a job similar to her current position at Broadway Broadband.

DeLauter married Reese, her high school sweetheart, in May 2021. While they do not yet have any children of their own, she really enjoys spending time with her six nieces and nephews that range in age from four months to 13. DeLauter also enjoys baking, snowboarding and spending time with her dogs.

When she was growing up, DeLauter always wanted to be the boss. She didn't know what she wanted to be boss of, but she knew she didn't want to be told what to do.

When asked about any particular challenge she has had to overcome in her life, DeLauter said figuring out what career she wanted to pursue, and she has now determined that being the boss isn't it.



DeLauter has already checked sky diving off her bucket list, but visiting Greece sometime is still on it. She has also thought about trying her hand at beekeeping.

She is still spending much of her time in training, but says she does enjoy the environment of the REMC and the people she works with. DeLauter reports to Stephanie Ziems, director of accounting and finance for Miami-Cass REMC.

We at Miami-Cass REMC are excited to have DeLauter on board as part of the Broadway Broadband family.