

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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SOUND THE ALARM. SAVE A LIFE.

Every day, seven people die in home fires — most often in homes that don't have working smoke alarms. Ameren Illinois partnered with the American Red Cross this spring to prevent these needless tragedies. In May, our volunteers installed more than 100 free smoke alarms in Decatur homes. The effort was part of the nationwide "Sound the Alarm" campaign to prevent home fires and save lives.



Operation Power Play: "This is only a drill"

Collaboration is key to helping communities recover after disaster strikes. On May 22, Ameren Illinois was one of more than 50 organizations that participated in Operation Power Play to prepare for potential real-life emergency scenarios. The annual event tests how agencies work together to protect critical infrastructure during a major disaster.

Hosted by the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago — with remote participation across the state — the drill simulated disasters, including extreme flooding and a cyberattack. Statewide drill activities included Ameren Illinois personnel flying drones in DuPage County to assess damage.

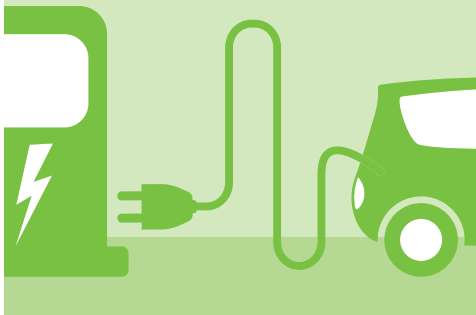
Following the exercise, participants met to evaluate drill performance and discuss lessons learned. Exercises like these help build collaboration and communication for a stronger, more unified response to emergencies in Illinois.

BUILDING A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Community Solar is just one way Ameren Illinois is paving the way for a clean energy future in Illinois. We support renewable energy by installing new equipment and enhancing our existing infrastructure to enable wind and solar generators to connect these energy sources safely to the grid — so our customers can receive the benefits.

We are also adding electric vehicles and compressed natural gas trucks to our fleet and supporting adoption of plug-in electric vehicle technology for customers. Across our territory, the use of smart meters helps to cut carbon dioxide emissions by reducing the number of trucks on the road.

In addition, our state-of-the-art microgrid in Champaign, Illinois, is producing up to 1,475 kilowatts of clean energy and using battery storage for clean energy. Our microgrid is the first facility in the world to achieve environmental Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council!



What is Community Solar?

A new “Community Solar” law allows Ameren Illinois customers to benefit from solar energy — without having to install solar panels or renewable generation equipment at their own homes or businesses.

Community Solar allows customers to subscribe to receive a portion of the power produced by a qualifying solar power producer in Ameren Illinois territory. Subscribers will reduce the cost of electric supply on their monthly power bill by the proportional amount of solar energy delivered to the Ameren Illinois grid by that particular producer.

Since the law passed, Ameren Illinois has received nearly 800 applications from solar energy producers that wish to connect to our grid — and provide power for our customers. You may be contacted by one of these solar companies, which are not affiliated with Ameren Illinois.

As your energy delivery company, Ameren Illinois encourages you to explore your options. We want to make it easy for you to enjoy the benefits of solar and other renewable energy sources.



GALVA STUDENTS GAIN ENERGY EDUCATION

Thanks to Ameren Illinois volunteers (and a truck or two), students at Galva Elementary School began summer with a better understanding of energy delivery and safety. As always, our electrical safety ambassador, Louie the Lighting Bug, stole the show!

Above: Louie the Lightning Bug takes flight, with a little help from an Ameren Illinois bucket truck.

Below: A Galva student enjoys the view from behind the wheel, as Luke Wigant, Kewanee Gas Crew Leader-Welder, looks on.



National publication profiles Illinois power players

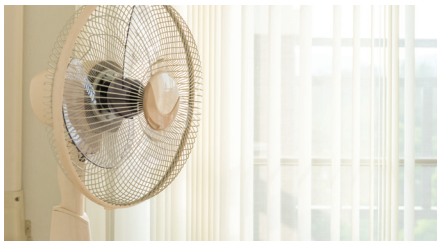
An article in the spring issue of *SAVOY* magazine recognizes the efforts of a powerful trio of Illinois energy leaders: Charles Matthews, Melvin D. Williams and Ameren Illinois' very own Richard Mark.

The three leaders respectively head three of the largest energy providers in Illinois: Peoples Energy, Nicor Gas and Ameren Illinois. Together, these companies deliver electricity and natural gas to more than 4.4 million customers in the Land of Lincoln.

The three became acquainted through their leadership roles on the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council (IUBDC), a first-of-its-kind coalition founded in 2015. According to the article, IUBDC's efforts to open doors for diverse suppliers have contributed an incremental \$2.05 billion to the Illinois GDP, supported 14,200 jobs in Illinois, and added \$341.5 million in taxes collected by federal, state and local governments.

Beyond supplier diversity, the IUBDC has facilitated communication between the state's utilities on issues ranging from operations and customer service to workforce development and energy policy.

Above: From left, Richard Mark, Melvin D. Williams and Charles Matthews.



COOL TIPS FOR SUMMER SAVINGS

Along with barbeques, baseball games and frosty treats, summer brings higher cooling costs. Follow these tips to stay comfortable at less cost:

- Turn off the AC, and use fans when temperatures allow.
- Concentrate your AC where you need it most by closing vents in rooms you seldom use.
- Use a “smart” or programmable thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures based on your preferences and schedule.
- Use a dehumidifier to reduce the amount of moisture in the air and make your home feel cooler.
- Upgrade to a more energy-efficient cooling unit — and visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](https://www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com) to see if you qualify for hundreds of dollars in HVAC rebates.

Video inspections help us know what’s below

As part of Ameren Illinois’ plan to modernize the gas delivery system, our crews are installing new gas piping and other equipment across the state. To complete these projects safely, we must first pinpoint the location of underground sewer piping. Our highly skilled contractors inspect sewer mains and service lines using a remote-operated video camera that travels through the piping.

These remote inspections are completed at no charge to the customer and allow us to:

- Accurately identify the location of sewer piping so we can avoid digging into it during construction and maintenance work.
- Minimize digging in customer yards.
- Identify and correct any potentially hazardous cross-bore situations (see illustration below).

If you experience any problems with your sewage system during or following replacement of natural gas facilities, please call Ameren Illinois or inform your sewer contractor that Ameren Illinois has been working on the natural gas system.

What is a cross bore?

A cross bore occurs when a natural gas line has been inadvertently installed through a sewer line.

Cross bores are safe when left undisturbed. However, if a cutting tool is used to clear a blocked sewer line, the blades can sever the gas line. Gas could then enter the home, creating the potential for a fire or explosion.

