



News Release

Editor's Note: Programs replace suspended live power line demonstrations at EEC Tent

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Electrical Accident Survivor Shares His Story at State Fair

Urges caution around power lines

(SPRINGFIELD, Ill.) – Starting Thursday Aug. 18th, Shawn Miller will present programs daily at the Energy Education Council/Safe Electricity tent, urging people to use extreme caution around overhead power lines. Miller speaks from personal experience. Seven years ago, a routine outdoor activity took a tragic turn.

He had been hanging holiday lights in the trees that lined his mother's yard. As he tossed the lights up into the trees, 7200 volts of electricity entered his body, traveling from the overhead power lines through his strand of lights. His mother found her son on the ground with wisps of smoke coming from his body. Miller was unconscious and badly burned.

"Power lines were the last thing on my mind that day," says Miller. "I was just hanging Christmas lights at my Mom's house like I do every year, only this time, I was decorating a new area, the trees that lined the front of the yard." Although Miller suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of his left hand and a finger on his right hand, his survival was miraculous.

"After something life-changing happens, you become more interested and learn much more," Miller said. "Had I known more before this happened, I might still have two hands and the job I loved. I want to help people learn from what has happened to me. Safe Electricity is helping me help others."

Miller is also helping out the Council and his friend Kyle Finley, presenter of the popular live line demo shows. Finley was scheduled to do multiple demos at the EEC Tent daily during the Fair, but had

to suspend them Wednesday Aug. 17 due to a death in the family. Miller was happy to help out to ensure safety programs continue to be part of the Tent's activities.

Safe Electricity and Miller encourage people to spend time making themselves aware of their surroundings before working with or around items that use electricity, indoors and out.

"Shawn Miller has a lot to teach us about electrical safety and we are grateful he is sharing his story with others during the Illinois State Fair," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "We want people to learn from his tragic experience and care enough to share it with those they love."

"I'm lucky to be alive," Miller adds. "I want everyone to be careful, be aware of power lines."

Miller will be speaking with audiences four times each day—at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.—starting Thursday, August 18.

The Energy Education Council Tent features free, energy-saving and life-saving displays, programs, giveaways, and more. It is located near the corner of Central and Main streets and across the street from the Fire Safety House.

For more information on electrical safety and to learn more about Miller's compelling story, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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For more information and videos on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency, and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other entities committed to promoting safe use of electricity.