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www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Power Line Issues

Call 800-577-3323 to report
outages and other power
line issues.

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative,
Inc. is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.

FROM THE CEO

Reap What You Sow: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head. Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm.

- ▶ If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a "pathway to ground" and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- ▶ If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- ▶ When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- ▶ Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times. (OSHA recommends a distance of 20 feet.)
- ▶ Remember, non-metallic materials (such

as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.

- ▶ Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet current height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 911 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- ▶ Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- ▶ When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- ▶ Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- ▶ American Family Insurance suggests that you "know your PTO." To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.



Kirk Girard

**If floodwaters
are infiltrating
your home ...**

DO NOT
touch electrical equipment.

MOVE
to an upper level or attic.

AVOID
drinking tap water.

KNOW
that standing water
could be energized.

DO NOT
enter a flooded basement
or room.

WEAR
heavy work gloves,
protective clothing
and boots.

USE
generators outdoors
and away from windows
or doors.

DO NOT
turn off electricity to your
home unless it is dry and
safe to do so.

SOURCE: READY.GOV

Advantages of Paperless Billing

A growing number of members are choosing paperless billing. Instead of getting a bill in the mail, they get a text and/or email to notify them their bill is ready, and they view it in SmartHub. While they may miss out on the pleasures of paper clutter, the benefits are hard to beat.

- ▶ **NO WAITING.** You can view your bill as soon as it is generated.
- ▶ **ENHANCED SECURITY.** Direct electronic communication reduces the risk of lost statements and mail fraud. Accessing your bill with a password adds another level of security.
- ▶ **NO PAPER WASTE.** There is no need to file, shred or dispose of your bill.
- ▶ **LOOK AGAIN.** Your bills are available to review whenever you want to see them. You can even print them out if you really miss holding them.
- ▶ **MONETARY ADVANTAGES.** Most people who use electronic billing also use electronic payments, saving stamps and the hassle of getting a check in the mail. Also, since you are a member of a cooperative, the money Prairie Land saves on bill printing, stuffing and mailing is passed on to you with enhanced capital credits and fewer rate increases.
- ▶ **YOU DECIDE.** If you go paperless and don't like it, you can change your mind and opt back in to paper billing anytime.



Call us at 800-577-3323, and one of our friendly local customer service representatives can get you set up for paperless billing in just a few moments over the phone.

To enroll in paperless billing using a computer browser, visit our website and click on the "SmartHub Login" button at the top. Sign in, then click on "My Profile." Select "Update my Paperless Settings" and toggle your "Paperless" to "on."

In the mobile app, click on "More" at the bottom of the screen, then click settings, then "Paperless Billing." Toggle the button to the right, then click "Yes" when it asks if you are sure. It will tell you it was successful and you can just click "Close."

But what about the bill inserts? Never fear! When you get the email notification that your bill is ready, there are links to the bill inserts archived on our website at www.prairielandelectric.com/bill-inserts.

Please join us at the



ANNUAL MEETING

April 12, 2022

Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 12:45p.m.
14935 US HWY 36, NORTON, KS

POWER
to make life better



Daylight Saving Time



On Sunday, March 13 at 2 a.m., turn your clocks forward one hour to 3 a.m.

Using the Clock to Save Energy

Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? Think of times of high energy demand like rush hour traffic. These are times when a lot of people in our community are using electricity to cook dinner, wash clothes, bathe the kids or wash dishes. During these times of high energy use, your electric cooperative strives to ensure there is enough electricity available to meet the needs of all consumer-members. This often results in buying energy at higher costs (because of higher overall demand) as well as ensuring that grid infrastructure can deliver enough electricity when use is highest. This is especially true when extreme winter or summer weather pushes energy use even higher.

There are several ways consumers can help lower energy demand by thoughtfully timing energy-intensive activities at home. Peak energy hours are typically in the morning and in the evening after people return from work and school. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off-peak.

Here are few simple ways you can beat the energy peak:

- ▶ Adjust the thermostat. Move the temperature up to 78 degrees in summer and down to 68 degrees in winter. Bump it further up or down when you're away from home for extended periods of time.

- ▶ Postpone the use of major appliances. Move laundry loads to later in the evening or weekends. Delay running the dishwasher until well after dinner or use the delay cycle function if your dishwasher has one.

- ▶ Your water heater uses a significant amount of energy. You can reduce its energy burden by moving showering and bathing to an off-peak time or lowering the temperature on the tank. Some models include the ability to place the water heater on a timer to turn it off during hours it won't be in use.

- ▶ During summer, consider grilling outdoors to keep the oven off during peak heat days.

- ▶ Unplug charging cables and small appliances when they're not in use. For bigger items like TVs, try plugging them into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.

- ▶ If you have an electric vehicle, charge it at night when electricity rates are typically lowest.

Lowering your energy use during peak times allows your co-op to save money on peak demand fuel costs, ultimately saving consumer-members money by keeping rates lower.

Timing energy use to avoid "rush hour" is a great way to keep costs down and practice better efficiency habits.

Storm Watches vs. Warnings

At any moment, 1,800 thunderstorms occur worldwide, according to the National Weather Service. That is 16 million storms a year! In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60 to 65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries in the U.S. alone. It is a good idea to fully understand how dangerous storms can be and how to interpret weather alerts to minimize risk.

Watch Versus Warning

A watch means there is a significant chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Watch and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures, like unplugging electronics and checking the contents of your emergency preparedness kit.

A warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar. The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home, which is usually in your basement or the interior part of your home.

Severe Weather

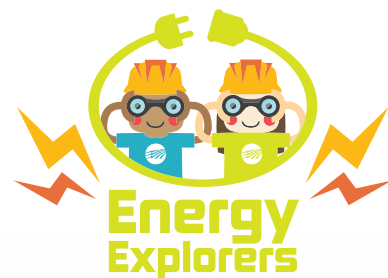
Most storm damage comes from flooding caused by heavy rains, lightning strikes and high winds. Some storms also deliver hail and can even spawn tornadoes. Bad weather systems can cause broken windows, extreme water damage, fallen trees, serious fires, downed power lines and more.

Do not ignore the potential hazards of severe weather. Keep flashlights or battery-operated lights well supplied with batteries or charge them regularly. Keep a supply of nonperishable food and drinking water on hand. Turn off and unplug electronic equipment to protect it from power surges. Move valuables out of the basement or other locations that may flood. If a power outage occurs, never use a portable generator in your home, enclosed structure or garage. Do not step into a flooded basement or area since the water could be electrified.

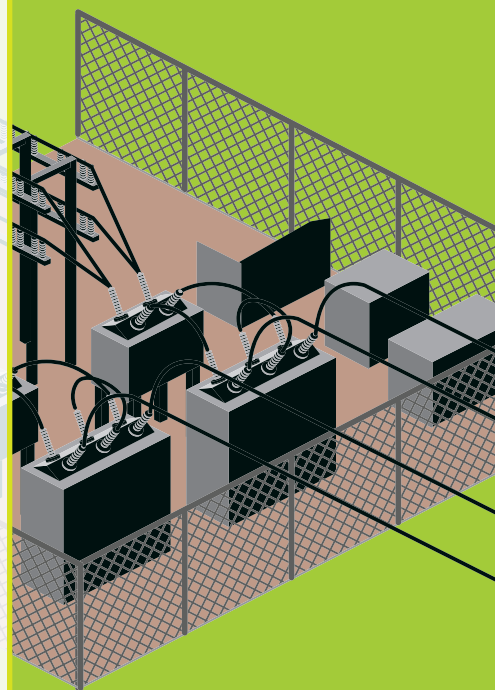
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WORD SEARCH

Did you know we use a variety of equipment to send electricity to your home?

Read the facts below to learn about the equipment we use, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.



C	Y	F	S	S	B	U	R	U	X	S	Z	P	Z	S
T	U	R	S	O	E	Q	N	S	G	E	W	S	E	K
N	H	Z	T	B	V	N	Z	E	B	F	U	S	K	C
Z	N	B	Z	R	S	M	I	K	Y	X	U	I	J	U
E	J	A	D	K	X	Z	T	L	Z	S	E	E	E	R
S	G	L	F	Y	M	O	G	I	R	E	N	C	O	T
V	Z	Q	O	W	K	V	D	C	H	E	U	K	O	T
U	S	C	T	A	S	W	J	I	E	O	W	B	H	E
S	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	B	U	S	E	O	X	K
X	S	R	E	M	R	O	F	S	N	A	R	T	P	C
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	M	E	T	E	R	S	U
Y	B	G	V	H	U	N	P	D	L	K	C	R	R	B
B	L	P	T	G	I	F	N	Z	T	S	M	B	G	E
U	H	U	J	Y	Z	L	K	A	S	L	H	H	E	C
Z	B	R	I	Y	Q	I	U	J	M	F	H	Z	D	R



- **TRANSFORMERS** look like large metal cans on top of utility poles or big green boxes on the ground. They reduce the voltage of electricity for safe use in your home.
- **POWER LINES** hang overhead or are placed underground to carry electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses.
- Lineworkers use **BUCKET TRUCKS** to reach power lines and poles when making repairs and updates to the electrical system.
- **ELECTRIC METERS** are placed on the outside of homes to measure the amount of electricity you use.
- **SUBSTATIONS** are facilities that contain equipment to help control the flow of electricity.