



P.O. Box 360, 14935 U.S. Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654
785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323
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.

POWER
to make life better

FROM THE CEO

Ensuring Reliability as Power Supply Tightens

You expect reliable and affordable electricity from your electric cooperative, so how does your co-op deliver on that promise?

A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That's a particularly vexing question given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting the energy needs so essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. For Kansas, that entity is the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars — in this case, electricity — and their destination.

Even so, on some days there is an imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts — so-called “max-gen” events. In those cases, supply simply can't keep up. In the midcontinent region comprised of 15 states, there were six max-gen events from 2006-2016. In the following four years (2016-2020), there were 15,



Kirk Girard

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Our offices will be closed Nov. 11, 24 and 25 in observance of the holidays. Please call 800-577-3323 to report an outage.



2023 Trustee Election Process

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that the following positions will be elected in the 2023 trustee election:

► DISTRICT 1

Cheyenne and Rawlins counties

MIKE ROGERS of Saint Francis currently holds this position.

► DISTRICT 2

Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties

KEITH ROSS of Long Island currently holds this position.

► DISTRICT 4

Smith, Jewell, Osborne and Mitchell counties

RONALD G. GRIFFITH of Smith Center currently holds this position.

► DISTRICT 5

Republic, Washington, Cloud and Clay counties

JERRY GALLAGHER of Concordia currently not seeking re-election.

A nominating committee has been appointed to meet and nominate candidates for these positions. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the positions, contact a member

of the committee to discuss your nomination.

The committee will meet on **DEC. 13, 2022, AT 1 P.M.** at the Prairie Land Electric office at 14935 U.S. Highway 36 in Norton.

Nominating Committee Members Include:

► **ROGER ZWEYGARDT** – St. Francis
785-332-3458

► **STEPHEN WASHBURN** – Norton
785-202-0338

► **RODNEY BELLEAU** – Hill City
785-421-8149

► **DENNIS HANSEN** – Smith Center
785-282-3211

► **JERRY STENBERG** – Clyde
785-243-0129

Nominations may also be made by petition. Interested candidates should contact the Norton office to request the appropriate form.

The petition must be signed by not less than 25 members of the district for whom the trustee is to be elected.

Petitions need to be delivered to the Norton office by **5 P.M. ON JAN. 11, 2023**. All nominations shall be posted in the Norton office.

The election shall be conducted on an “at large” basis; therefore every member of Prairie Land Electric is eligible to vote for all positions in the election. Upon completion of the nominating process, voting materials will be mailed to Prairie Land members **BY JAN. 25, 2023**. The bylaws, as amended, require the use of mail ballots for trustee elections.

Ballots and a postage-paid return envelope will be furnished for the member to use. Ballots must be returned to the Norton office by **5 P.M. ON FEB. 10, 2023**. An election and credentials committee will count the ballots by Feb. 20 and the election results will then be announced.

If you have questions regarding this year's election, please call the Prairie Land office in Norton at 785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323.

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employees



Kyle Strutt

KYLE STRUTT was hired as a journeyman lineworker on Sept. 19, 2022, to serve members in Phillips County. He graduated from Republic County High School in Belleville and previously worked for Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative. In his free time, he likes hunting, fishing and working with cattle.

Kyle and his wife, Sierra, along with their two children, Lucy, 5, and Kohen, 4 months, will be relocating from Woodston to Phillipsburg.

DILLON WILLIAMS started on Oct. 1, 2022, as an apprentice lineworker for the Oberlin area. He has been interning with Prairie Land in the Concordia area since May of this year.

Dillon completed the lineworker program at Pratt Community College. He is a graduate of Holcomb High School and Garden City Community College.

Dillon is relocating to the Oberlin area and likes to hunt and fish.



Dillon Williams



Apprentice Lineworker Jameson Nielson (left) and Foreman Spencer Ketterl took time to answer questions at a safety demonstration on Sept. 26 for students at Oberlin Elementary School.

Ensuring Reliability ... *Continued from page 12A* ▶

including three in July and August of 2020 alone.

Simply put, that's because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new producers come online. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. This gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants.

As more electric utilities pursue zero- or low-carbon initiatives by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what's the answer?

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's

energy fleet — coal and nuclear energy facilities — must continue to operate in many regions. In some, they remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity.

Fossil fuel generation like coal and natural gas are needed to keep the lights on. It is simply a fact.

Attention High School Juniors

Applications for the 2023 Youth Tour and Leadership Camp are now available. See your high school counselor or contact:

KENZIE GRIFFITHS
kg Griffiths@ple.coop
785-877-3323



Safety Coordinator Garrett Willour demonstrates the dangers of high voltage during a safety demonstration on Sept. 26 for students at Oberlin Elementary School. Lineworkers rigorously test their equipment to ensure it can keep them safe. This glove was found with a tiny pinhole, putting the wearer at risk of electric shock and burns.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



Kansas Hunting Safety

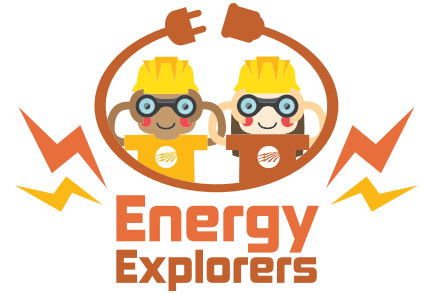
Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to 2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org). Consider getting an electric inspection of your home, especially if it is an older home, or you have never had an inspection.

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room. Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters may walk far distances while hunting and recovering an animal, which can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
- ▶ Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
- ▶ Know the hunting area. Check boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.
- ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
- ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize your surroundings or cause a fire.
- ▶ Wear blaze orange.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

FALL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But fall also brings greater risks of home fires and electrical hazards.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **bold, blue** words in the puzzle.

Adults should always stay in the **kitchen** while food is **cooking**.

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly.

Batteries should be replaced every year or right away if the alarm starts to chirp.

Candles should never be left burning when someone isn't in the room.

Keep flammable items away from the **stove, toaster** and other cooking **appliances**.

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