

NEWS



Board Approves Updates to Rules and Regulations

At the February meeting of the Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. board of trustees, changes to the rules and regulations that govern the cooperative were approved. Our current rules and regulations can always be found on our website at www.prairielandelectric.com/rules-and-regulations.

Most of the updates were minor changes in wording or the addition of definitions to improve clarity. Those types of changes do not affect the operations of the cooperative.

The one change that could affect member accounts is the inclusion of prepaid billing regulations. This means residential members have an additional option for managing their electric account.

Prepaid billing is an optional program that gives a member the power to pay for electricity on his or her own schedule, on an



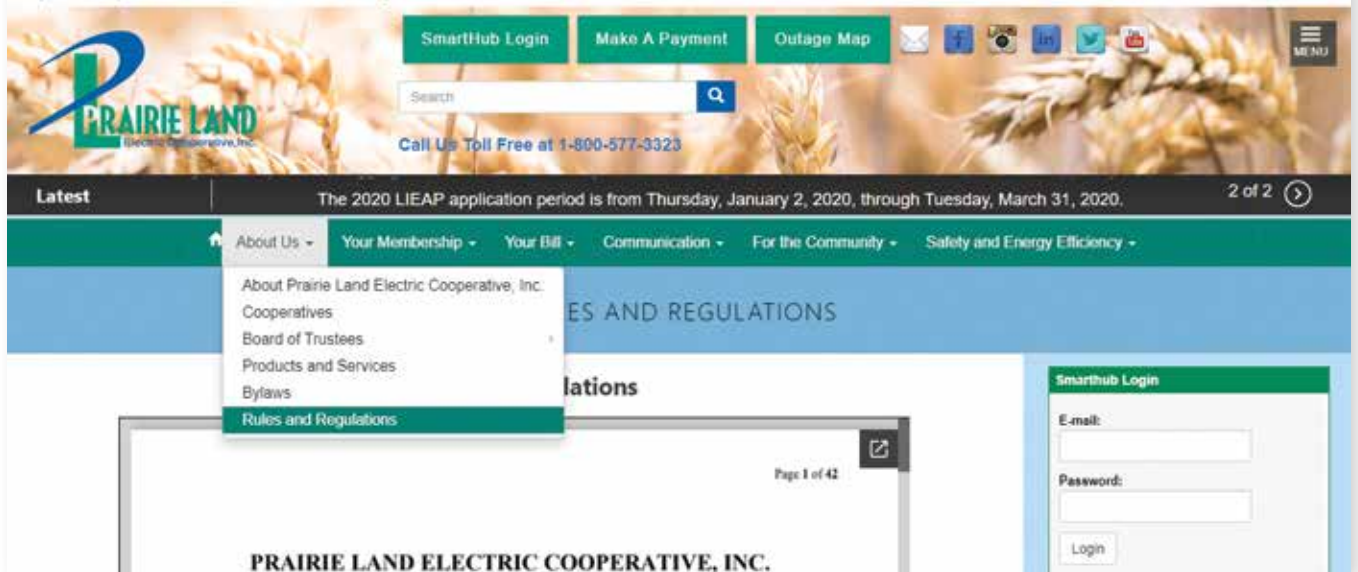
as-needed, pay-as-you-go basis. While the rates are exactly the same, prepaid billing participants are exempt from credit checks and from paying deposits, late fees, disconnect and reconnect fees. On prepaid billing, the member is assessed a monthly convenience fee of \$5.

If you are on automatic payments or always pay your bill on time, you would

not find much benefit in prepaid billing. However, if you find that your paycheck consistently comes after the due date, or you'd like to use your deposit toward electricity instead, it could be to your advantage to use prepaid billing.

Our customer service representatives would be happy to explain more about the program and help you determine if prepaid billing would be a good choice for you. You can also view the program manual at <https://www.prairielandelectric.com/prepaid-billing>.

<https://www.prairielandelectric.com/rules-and-regulations>



Planning a Yard Project? Don't Just Dig In

April is National Safe Digging Month. It reminds us all that as we begin beautifying our yards, we shouldn't just dig in. According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 two to three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. The service is free and can help prevent costly repairs to underground wires later.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences.

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries and disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also make a dent in your wallet for repair fees or other fines.

The 811 hotline points out that there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the U.S.



Before Digging

- ▶ **NOTIFY** Kansas One Call by calling 811 or making an online request two to three days before work begins.
- ▶ **WAIT** the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- ▶ **CONFIRM** that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.
- ▶ **DIG CAREFULLY** around the marks.

Remember that privately owned underground lines will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines serving a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

Surge Protection is a Must for Your Home

Prairie Land offers a service aimed at protecting your home's appliances and electronics. A TESCO Surge Protector protects the homeowner's equipment at the service entrance from any type of surge coming through the power lines.

You can lease a TESCO Surge Protector through Prairie Land and have it installed under your home's electric meter. For \$5.99 a month, and a one-time \$25 installation fee, you can safeguard your home from costly damages. For more information call Prairie Land 800-577-3323.



10 REASONS WE APPRECIATE LINEWORKERS

Although we appreciate each and every co-op employee, it takes a special kind of person to be an electric lineworker. Here are the top 10 reasons we appreciate our lineworkers.

- 10 They are specially trained to work on power lines and related equipment.
- 9 They are dedicated to safely and efficiently restoring power following weather or outages.
- 8 They work overtime, many holidays and get up in the middle of the night to help restore power.
- 7 They enjoy serving our communities.
- 6 They aren't afraid of heights.
- 5 They help other electric co-ops with major outages at a moment's notice.
- 4 They lend their talents in many ways, including educating the public about electrical safety.
- 3 They have each other's backs.
- 2 They are trained to work safely on both dead and live power lines.
- 1 We couldn't provide excellent service without them or any of our other dedicated employees.