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**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

In Any Crisis, Electric Cooperatives Keep Powering On

As we all deal with the new realities brought on by the coronavirus, you can rest assured that Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is here to help you. We have always had an emergency plan that has served us well in a variety of circumstances, from ice storms to tornadoes to flash floods. Early in this crisis, our staff updated that plan with a special emphasis on ensuring we can continue to provide the reliable electric service you have come to expect from Prairie Land.

So far, that is exactly what has happened. We know that after a sufficient supply of food and water, electricity is the No. 1 thing you need to maintain some sense of normalcy as we

hunker down in our homes. With that in mind, keeping the power flowing is job one for everyone involved in maintaining the electric cooperative system.

That starts with our generation cooperative, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, which has taken extreme measures to ensure its workforce is healthy and its power plants are functioning as needed. It extends to the cooperatives that wheel that electricity across Kansas, and it includes Prairie Land Electric, where business may be a bit unusual, but our service remains the same.

We thought you might want to know some of the steps we have taken to keep your power flowing.

We've closed our lobbies to prevent the spread of germs. Instead, we are encouraging members to use our dropbox, online and phone payment options and the "good ol'" U.S. Postal Service to pay bills.

Many of our employees are working from home. Those in the office are using social

distancing. If you call, the phones will be answered, as always.

We have separated our line crews from other employees and even from each other to limit possible spread of the virus. Trucks are being relocated so lineworkers can head to the job site without coming to the office. New routines are in place for contractors working on our system to keep them separated from employees. Deliveries are being quarantined.

Our management team and board are meeting constantly to fine-tune this plan. We are in constant contact with the other electric cooperatives in Kansas and Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., which in turn is working closely with our national association, the state legislature, and Gov. Laura Kelly.

So far, it is working well and everyone has adapted to the new norm. That's because we've done this before. Nothing brings out the best in our employees more than a crisis situation. It's kind of like gold that has been tested in fire — stronger and more beautiful!

Our focus here is on doing our part to keep your life as normal as possible through this situation and beyond. The cooperative way of doing business has brought us this far, and the cooperative way will help us through this crisis.

All the best to everyone. Stay healthy, stay home and we will get through this together — the cooperative way!



Epley Completes 15 Years



Jacob Epley
15 Years

Prairie Land Electric congratulates **JACOB EPLEY** for completing 15 years of service with the cooperative.

Epley began his employment May 23, 2005, as an apprentice lineman in Phillipsburg, working for Aquila, Inc.

In 2007, he became a Prairie Land employee with the Aquila, Inc. acquisition, and has since advanced to his current position of crew foreman.

Epley is a graduate of Northeast Community College, Norfolk, Nebraska, with an associate applied science degree in utility line.

Epley and his wife, Amie, have three children, Izzy, 10; Addy, 7; and Tate, 4. The kids participate in dance, soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball. When he's not busy cheering on the kids, Epley enjoys hunting.

Follow Prairie Land Electric on Facebook for important announcements, large outage updates, safety information, energy efficiency tips, and more. Scan the code at right with the QR code reader on your smartphone to go directly to our page, or log in to Facebook and search for PLECOOP.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

for Teens

- Do not use generic chargers or cords. They could overheat or shock or burn you.
- Do not put your cell phone under your pillow or take it to bed with you.
- Do not use cell phones or other electrical devices with wet or damp hands.
- Do not bring a charging cell phone or other electrical devices near water, including a bathtub or pool.
- If you are in a car accident involving a downed power line, do not get out of the vehicle unless you see smoke or fire.
- If you must exit a burning vehicle near or on a downed power line, make a clean exit from the car and land on both feet; then hop with feet together, do not walk, to safety.

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KILOWATT TIPS

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Lightning strikes millions of times each year. It is simply not safe to be outdoors during a thunderstorm. That is why the National Weather Service advises, "When thunder roars, go indoors." However once inside a safe shelter, there are additional and important safety steps to take.

While staying inside reduces the risk for lightning strikes, lightning strike injuries do still occur indoors. Safe Electricity recommends the following tips to help keep you safe inside the home during a thunderstorm:

- ▶ During a storm, stay away from anything that conducts electricity inside of the home. This includes corded phones, plumbing, or running water. Cellular or cordless phones are safe to use during a storm.
- ▶ Never use your computer, gaming systems, washer, dryer, or any other appliance that connects to an electrical outlet.
- ▶ Stay at least a few feet away from electrical appliances that are plugged into the wall.
- ▶ Do not lie or lean on concrete floors or walls, which can conduct electricity.
- ▶ Lightning can enter inside through wiring, such as cables or pipes or through an open window or door. Do not watch a storm from a porch or through a garage door.
- ▶ Stay away from all water. Do not take a bath, shower, or wash dishes during a lightning storm.

Also, check weather forecasts so you can plan to be in a safe shelter during a storm. After the storm, make sure you stay inside and follow the safety rules for at least 30 minutes after you have last heard thunder. Remember that lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the storm.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.



Kilowatt