

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL
GENERAL MANAGER

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the United States. That's why for K.C. Electric Association, safety is our cornerstone and will not be compromised. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help.

Distractions can be deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.



DAVID CHURCHWELL

We recognize, that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize K.C. Electric employees by our logo, which is on our employees' shirts, hard hats and service trucks. You probably know many of our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow down and move over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.



September 2019

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

COOKWARE EFFICIENCY TIP:

Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov



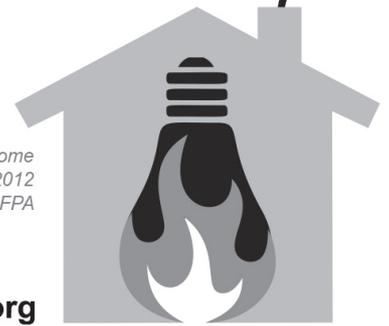
INCENTIVES & REBATES



To promote efficient electric energy usage, K.C. Electric offers incentives and rebates on electric motors, Energy Star appliances, lighting, electric water heaters, heat pumps and LEDs.

Please note that the residential LED rebate incentive program will end December 2019. Submit your residential LED rebates by November 30, 2019. All other rebates are still in effect and valid through 2019 and beyond. Contact K.C. Electric Member Services Manager George Ehlers at 719-743-2431 with any questions concerning your residential or commercial rebates. Visit the rebates section at www.kcelectric.coop for more information.

35,100 reported home fires*
per year involve electrical
or lighting issues. Use AFCIs
to help protect your home.



*On average, per year, home structure fires between 2012 and 2016; Source: NFPA

Safe Electricity.org

Trump Administration Offers Rule to Manage Power Plant Carbon Emissions

BY DAN RIEDINGER

The Trump administration recently issued a rule to reduce power plant carbon emissions. Known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, the rule will require power plants to work with state regulators to assess steps that can be taken to cut emissions through energy efficiency improvements.

America's electric cooperatives welcome the new rule, noting that it is preferable to an earlier and costlier attempt to regulate carbon emissions that ultimately was put on hold by the Supreme Court.

"The ACE rule represents a more flexible path forward that will minimize the cost to consumers and preserve the reliability of the electric grid as electric co-ops work to promote a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Electric cooperatives have invested billions of dollars in diverse energy sources and emission-reduction technology to meet the electricity needs of their local communities while protecting the environment," Matheson said. "The ACE rule gives electric cooperatives the ability to adopt evolving technology and respond to market and consumer demands while continuing to serve as engines of economic development for one in eight Americans."

Matheson stressed that the ACE rule will allow electric co-ops to ensure that affordable and reliable power remains available throughout communities.

Power plant emissions have steadily declined due to market forces and evolving consumer expectations.

Nearly 60% of the electricity supplied by electric co-ops comes from low- or no-emission energy sources. Electric

cooperatives have reduced carbon emissions 9% since 2009, even while increasing electric generation by more than 12 million megawatt-hours. And co-ops are investing in research to develop proven carbon capture, storage and reuse technologies that can extend the operation of coal-fueled power plants.

Electric cooperatives work hard to minimize the cost of new regulations to reduce the impact on electric rates for their consumer-members. In this instance, the ACE rule is consistent with our mission to provide consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable power, while continuing to reduce emissions and meet other important environmental goals.

Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

What Causes a Transformer to Catch Fire?

Have you ever driven by a substation and wondered what was in there? Part of all that metal equipment behind the substation fence includes transformers. In your neighborhood or on your street, the transformer is either located in a barrel-type housing high up on a power pole or in the green utility boxes every fifth yard or so.

In all cases, the transformer is used to “step down” or decrease voltage from high-powered to lower-powered lines. Transformers can malfunction and let the world know it with a bang. They can explode and catch on fire for two major reasons: from a lightning strike or from damaged wires or equipment somewhere else on the electrical pathway.

Although transformers have built-in protective devices, they may not trigger fast enough to prevent an explosion. (Protective circuits are fast — they respond almost immediately — but they are not as fast as lightning.)

The result, especially for the large substation transformers, is often a bluish-green flash that can be seen from far away at night. The event can also interrupt electrical service to any homes or businesses fed by the transformer.

After a transformer catches on fire:

- Stay away.
- Please be patient until we can restore service. Our crews must shut down the incoming line first and then repair the destroyed hardware.
- Do not try to put out the fire yourself — water and electricity don't mix. Call 911 to report the fire.
- Keep in mind that power not directly impacted by the transformer fire may need to be shut off temporarily during repairs to prevent stress on the electrical system.

For more information about power line or transformer safety, contact us at K.C. Electric Association at 719-743-2431 or visit SafeElectricity.org.

Where Transformers Live

In general, the massive metal cluster known as a substation usually houses switches, protective devices and control equipment, as well as transformers. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur.

If you have overhead lines on your road or street, you may have noticed barrel-like equipment attached to a power pole. This equipment houses the transformer.

Conversely, if you have underground service, the transformers are located in the green boxes on the ground called pad-mounted transformers.

If you notice any problems with a transformer — one that is in disrepair or that has been damaged in a storm — call us at 719-743-2431. Never try to address a transformer problem yourself.





APPLIANCE WORD SEARCH

Did you know major appliances account for a large portion of your home's energy use?

Circle the names of all major appliances in the puzzle below. Use the word bank for clues!

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

REFRIGERATOR	DISHWASHER	AIR CONDITIONER	STOVE
WASHING MACHINE	MICROWAVE	HEATER	WATER HEATER
CLOTHES DRYER	OVEN		

WORD BANK

Claim Your Savings

Each month, members have a chance to claim a \$10 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number and call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

Gayle Mitchell, Arapahoe

— 1100190002

Chuck Keller, Kit Carson

— 1115360001

Collin Simmons, Hugo — 638750005

Luca Strode, Flagler — 1287250001

In July, three consumers called to claim their savings — Chandler Kent, Kit Carson; Robert Grosso, Stratton; and Jennifer Robinson, Cheyenne Wells.

IT'S WINTER PREP TIME

As temperatures begin to cool, visions of winter dance in our heads. Before freezing temperatures blow in, be sure your home is ready to leave the chill outdoors where it belongs. Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different



building materials meet or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.

Will the installation of a smart meter violate my privacy?

A new form of technology does not mean a bigger breach of your privacy — your privacy is protected. The data about your electricity usage helps generate your bill, provide you with reliable electricity and speed up response time if your power goes out. It is not there to spy on you.