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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.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SCAM

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER

It's no secret that electricity consumers have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Impostor scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come via email, phone or text.

COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 719-743-2431. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.kcelectric.coop. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us by phone or use SmartHub to check the status of your account. Remember, K.C. Electric will never call you on the phone to demand immediate payment.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy.

All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a Social Security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, K.C. Electric will automatically apply the credit to your account. When in doubt, contact us.

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home who you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or have reported a problem. When we perform work on our consumer-members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



Get a Rebate from K.C. Electric

Rebates are available to all K.C. Electric consumer-members for Energy Star appliances, heat pumps, electric water heaters, LED bulbs and more. Visit www.kcelectric.coop/content/rebates for more information and to learn if you qualify.



with Farmers

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be wide and slow. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, take a deep breath and **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

- 1** Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2** Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.
- 4** Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the operator's blind spot.
- 5** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top (Texas Farm Bureau)



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.

TAKING STEPS FOR LADDER SAFETY

There are thousands of injuries and about 100 fall deaths each year associated with ladder use.

LOOK UP and LOOK OUT for overhead power lines while using a ladder outdoors. Before transporting a ladder, hold it horizontally.

THE FIVE MOST COMMON MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN USING LADDERS ARE:

- Overreaching**
- Missing the last step when coming down**
- Not keeping three points of contact at all times**
- Using the wrong type or size of ladder for the job**
- Placing the ladder on uneven ground**

Safe Electricity.org®

Sources: American Ladder Institute, OSHA



Claim Your Savings

Each month, consumer-members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, 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).

- **John Crowell, Cheyenne Wells — 430000000**
- **Rodney Pelton, Cheyenne Wells — 1108660002**
- **Sammi Jo Chadwick, Cheyenne Wells — 410900001**
- **Kyle Bancroft, Burlington — 1103055005**

In June, two consumer-members called to claim their savings: Justin Colglazier, Burlington, and Peter Kroeker, Arapahoe.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



KEEP YOUR COOL: FIVE TIPS TO STAY SAFE IN EXTREME HEAT

BY ABBY BERRY

The dog days of summer typically bring the warmest, sultriest temperatures of the year. Even if you're a summertime enthusiast, it's important to stay cool during extreme heat.

Stay cool during extreme heat.

- Limit outdoor activity.
- Stay hydrated.
- Check on friends and neighbors who are at greater risk.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 700 people die from extreme heat every year in the U.S. Factors such as obesity, age and alcohol intake can impact how a person reacts to extreme heat.

Take extra steps to cool off, keep hydrated and stay informed. Here are five tips recommended by the CDC to help you stay cool during extremely warm weather:

1. Stay in an air-conditioned home or building as much as possible. Limit outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest. If your home is not air-conditioned, call the local health department to locate public facilities or shelters that are.
2. If you must be outdoors, wear loose, light-colored clothing and apply sunscreen often.
3. Drink more water than usual. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more.
4. Take cold showers or baths to cool down.
5. Avoid using the oven or stove to cook. These appliances add heat to your home. Try using the microwave oven or a slow cooker instead.

Remember to look after those who may need extra help. People 65 years of age or older are at greater risk of heat-related illness, so check on your senior neighbors and friends. Children under the age of 2 and pets are also susceptible to heat stroke. Never leave a child or pet in a vehicle, even if only for a minute.

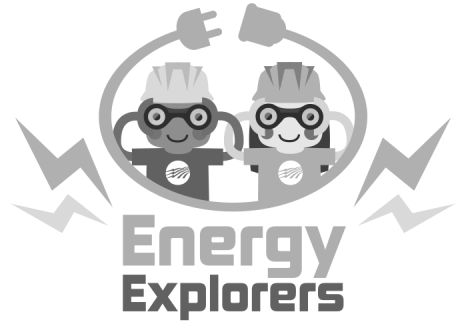
If you work outdoors, use a buddy system with coworkers to monitor how your work crew is feeling in the heat.

Heat-induced illness can happen to anyone, even to those who are perfectly healthy. If you're outdoors during extremely warm weather, monitor how you're feeling, stay hydrated and keep an eye on those around you.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

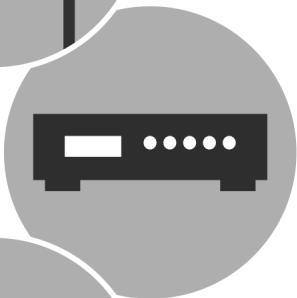
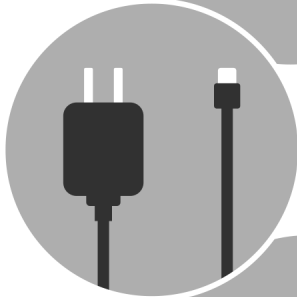
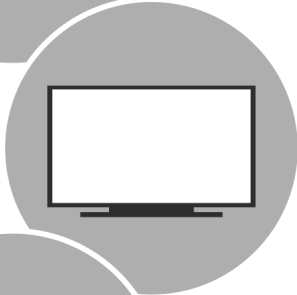
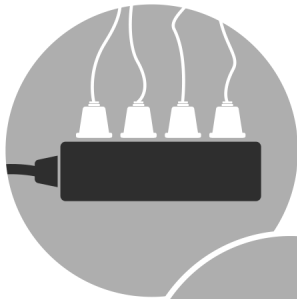
ELECTRONICS WORD SCRAMBLE

You can be more energy efficient by turning off unused electronics. Many electronics consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug them to save energy.



Unscramble the letters below to reveal electronics you can turn off when not in use.

Use the pictures for clues and check your work in the answer key.



1. NEPOH EHGRAC

2. MGAE NOESCLO

3. LCAEB XBO

4. EWROP PRTIS

5. ONSILEETIV

WORD BANK

- Power strip
- Television
- Game console
- Cable box
- Phone charger

ANSWER KEY: 1) PHONE CHARGER 2) GAME CONSOLE 3) CABLE BOX 4) POWER STRIP 5) TELEVISION