



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

I Collided with Electrical Equipment: Now What?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can and in an instant. Drivers veer off the road and run into a power pole. Farmers sometimes make contact with a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their beds and snag a power line.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. **KNOWING WHAT TO DO IN THAT SITUATION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.** Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified.

If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer ("green box") or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle or cab. Instead, **CALL 911 AND WAIT FOR UTILITY CREWS TO COME** and de-energize power. Here are some examples; in all instances, call 911:

- ▶ Your tractor or car **STRIKES A GUY WIRE** (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened or damaged, it could become energized.
- ▶ You are in a car accident and **ONE OF THE VEHICLES STRIKES A POWER POLE.** Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck, without touching it, and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to

safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, **THIS IS CALLED STEP POTENTIAL** and it can electrocute you.

- ▶ You see an accident that involves a **DOWNED POWER LINE. DO NOT** approach the scene.
- ▶ You hit a **PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMER** or other type of electrical box.
- ▶ Your vehicle hits a **SUBSTATION.**
- ▶ You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

Other Situations

- ▶ You get something stuck in power lines, like a drone, kite or remote-control device. Do not try to retrieve it.
- ▶ You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers. Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- ▶ You are carrying a tall ladder or pole — look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- ▶ You see kids climb trees that have power lines above — warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ You are using a portable generator — never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and kill a lineworker or neighbor.
For questions, call our service department at 800-828-5538.

Do the Math

When thinking about what and how many things to plug in, common sense goes a long way. However, if you are interested in the math, and you actually liked those story problems in high school algebra, here is the formula to use to find out if you are overloading a circuit:

[TOTAL WATTAGE OF DEVICES PLUGGED INTO THE CIRCUIT] ÷ [VOLTAGE OF THE CIRCUIT] = [AMPS DRAWN FROM THE CIRCUIT]

Farm and Fleet's blog gives a good example: Let's say you're running a 150-watt lamp and a 1,500-watt space heater on one outlet in your living room. From the map you made of your circuit breaker panel, you also see that there are two more electrical outlets and a 100-watt light running on that same circuit. You also see that the circuit is 120 volts. The other two outlets are empty. You want to use a three-way adapter to plug in another 150-watt lamp into the same outlet as the heater and the first lamp.

To determine if this would be safe, you first need to add up the wattage of what's plugged into the electrical outlets and light fixtures: **150 + 150 + 1,500 + 100 = 1,900**

So, you'll have a total of 1,900 watts running on that 120-volt circuit. The amperage would be: **[1,900 WATTS] ÷ [120 VOLTS] = [15.83 AMPS]**

This will be fine if the circuit is governed by a 20-amp breaker, but it will overload a 15-amp one, and you'll have to plug the lamp in somewhere else.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Avoiding Electrical Overload

Power strips and outlet converters allow us to plug multiple items into or near the same outlet. But just because we *can*, doesn't mean we *should*. I *can* eat a whole box of chocolates, but that doesn't mean I *should*.

Just like chocolate consumed in excess can overload your body with too many calories, attempting to draw too much power from an outlet or circuit can overload your home's electrical system. Depending on how your home is wired, you may get away with it — or you may face costly repairs. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker will trip or fuses will blow, but this is never guaranteed.

The results of overloading a circuit could range from a damaged appliance to starting a fire. That is because when too much electrical current flows through a circuit, things can overheat. Whether it is a wire, an outlet, or any other part along the electrical path, excess heat can cause serious problems.

Ninnescah Rural Electric and Safe Electricity remind you of the following electrical safety tips to help prevent overloading a circuit:

- ▶ Do not plug too many things into one outlet, extension cord, power strip or multi-outlet device. The same goes for plugging in several things into outlets on the same circuit.
- ▶ Look for loose connections or damaged or corroded wires, which can also cause an overload.

▶ If you continually upgrade your home with more electrical demands (lighting, appliances, electronics and so on), your home's circuits may not be able to handle the increased load. Check with an electrician to ensure your home can handle the electrical load.

▶ Plug in a space heater to a dedicated outlet (with nothing else plugged in) and do not plug a space heater into an extension cord.

▶ Major appliances (e.g., refrigerator, stove, washing machine) should be plugged into their own outlet since they draw a lot of power. For smaller appliances, do not plug more than two into one outlet.

▶ Know how much power you draw on an outlet or circuit; some experts recommend no more than 1,500 watts per outlet or circuit.

▶ Consult a qualified electrician to assess your home's electrical system, especially if you have an older home.

Although we take for granted that our homes are electrically sound or that we can plug in "just one more thing," don't take chances. When in doubt, have a qualified electrician assess your home, and mention any odd symptoms you may notice, like flickering or dimming lights, warm or discolored outlets or cover plates, and frequently blown fuses or tripped circuits.

For more information, call our office at 800-828-5538.



What is a Circuit, Anyway?

What is a circuit? Think of it as an electrical highway in your home; it is a path in which current can flow. The "highway" starts at the circuit breakers or fuses; then current is transported through it, but not in a straight line from point A to point B. (Think of how the wires run through your walls.)

A circuit can cover one room or part of a room, depending on what might be plugged in, or it can supply electrical current to one item. Case in point: most large appliances in a home require their own dedicated circuit to avoid overload.

Overload can happen in several ways, but the causes boil down to too much stress on the highway, including plugging too many things into one outlet, plugging in too many high-draw items into one outlet or circuit, or by having too many outlets installed on one circuit.

Youth Program Winners Announced

We would like to announce the 2020 youth program winners. Contestants met at Ninnescah's office Wednesday, Jan. 22 where they took a test based on an information packet provided to them. Contestants then interviewed with a panel of three judges.

Contestants included: Madeline Drake, Preston; Edwin Fernandez, St. John; Addie Hoeme, Preston; Ruby Howell, Preston; Erin Jackson, Preston; and Riley Prosser, Pratt.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., offers insight into our country's rich history tours and visits about the political process with our Kansas senators and representatives. However, this year the Youth Tour has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Youth Tour winner, **MADLINE DRAKE**, sophomore at Pratt High School, will instead receive a \$2,500 scholarship. **ADDIE HOEME**, sophomore at Pratt High School, was selected as our alternate and will receive a \$250 scholarship.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, builds leadership skills and teaches the seven cooperative principles, with the students having the opportunity to create a co-op complete with a board of directors. This year's camp has also been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our camp winner, **RUBY HOWELL**, junior at Pratt High School, will receive a scholarship in lieu of the trip. **ERIN JACKSON**, junior at Pratt High School, was selected as our alternate and will receive a \$250 scholarship.

EDWIN FERNANDEZ, junior at St. John High School and, **RILEY PROSSER**, sophomore at Pratt High School, will both receive a \$250 scholarship.



Madeline Drake
Youth Tour



Addie Hoeme
Youth Tour



Ruby Howell
Leadership Camp



Erin Jackson
Leadership Camp



Edwin Fernandez
Scholarship



Riley Prosser
Scholarship

Ninnescah Electric thanks all students who participated and congratulates this year's winners.

These annual trips are open to sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Ninnescah and those living in our service territory may participate even though the service is not listed in their parent's name. Please contact Nancy Aschenbrenner for information about the trips for next year at 800-828-5538.

Welcome New Members

Justin &/or Katie Basgall – *Harper*
Clinton R. &/or Amber D. Phye – *Pratt*
Joel Taylor – *Iuka*
Hildebrand Inv. LP – *Great Bend*
Kim R. Talsma – *Pratt*
JMZ Corporation – *Iola*
Hagen &/or Amy Turner – *Pratt*
Sam Sterling &/or
Shannon Smith-Sterling – *Pratt*



Recipes

from
Ninnescah Employees

We hope you enjoy the recipes from our employees this month. Please consider submitting YOUR favorite recipes to continue this recipe page.

Sweet Potato Crunch

- ▶ 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- ▶ 6 Tbs. butter
- ▶ 1 large egg
- ▶ 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- ▶ ¼ tsp. salt
- ▶ 6 Tbs. sugar

Topping

- ▶ 1 ½ cup crushed cornflakes
- ▶ ½ cup brown sugar
- ▶ ½ cup chopped pecans
- ▶ 6 Tbs. butter

Preheat oven to 400 F. Cook sweet potatoes in boiling water about 15 minutes. Drain and put in bowl with butter. Beat with mixer. Add egg, sugar, spice and salt. Blend. Transfer to 9x9 baking dish. (Can be made a day ahead and chilled. Bring to room temperature.) Bake potatoes until beginning to brown at edges and slightly puffed about 25 minutes. Mix topping ingredients in a bowl. Spoon topping over potatoes. Then return to oven about 10 minutes longer.

Leslie Abbott, GIS Mapping Technician

Crockpot Crack Chicken

- ▶ 2 rotisserie chickens, deboned
- ▶ 1 cup chicken broth
- ▶ 2 (8 oz) packages cream cheese
- ▶ 2 (1 oz.) packages dry ranch dressing
- ▶ 8 oz. bacon, cooked crispy and crumbled

Place deboned chicken in crockpot. Add chicken broth, cream cheese, dry ranch dressing. Cook on low for 4 hours or until chicken is tender and shreds easily. Stir together. Add bacon and mix well.

Teresa Miller, General Manager

Grandma's Chocolate Chip Cookies

- ▶ 1 cup shortening
- ▶ 1 cup butter
- ▶ 1 ½ cup sugar
- ▶ 1 ½ cup brown sugar
- ▶ 3 eggs
- ▶ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ▶ 5 cups flour
- ▶ 1 Tbs. salt
- ▶ 1 Tbs. baking soda
- ▶ 2 packages chocolate chips or chips of your choice

Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine shortening, butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla until creamy. Combine flour, soda and salt in separate bowl. Add a half cup at a time to the cream mixture until blended. Add chips and stir with spoon until well mixed. Drop by teaspoonful on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake till golden brown, about 8–10 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

Nancy Aschenbrenner, Consumer Representative

Beef Brisket

- ▶ 2 cans beef broth
- ▶ 2 Tbs. liquid smoke
- ▶ 1 ½ cups soy sauce
- ▶ ½ cup lemon juice
- ▶ 5 cloves chopped garlic
- ▶ 5–8 lbs. brisket

Combine first five ingredients in a large roasting pan. Place the brisket in marinade, fat side up. Cover tightly with foil. Marinate in the refrigerator overnight. Cook at 300 F, approximately 40 minutes per pound. When fork tender, slice the brisket and serve.

Sarah Ezell, Accounting Assistant

Want to share your recipe?

To submit your recipe please send or email the following information:

- ▶ Your name, contact information and Ninnescah account number
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to: Ninnescah Electric, Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124 OR email to: naschenbrenner@ninnescah.com

We hope you are enjoying the recipes from your neighbors.