



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.

Preparing for the Big Hunt: Consider Electrical Safety, Too

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind that along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt, but be sure to look up for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole, or related equipment can alter the electricity's path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. Even coming within 10 feet of the line can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.

In addition, do not shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Ninnescah and Safe Electricity remind hunting enthusiasts of these electrical safety tips:

► **FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE AREA** before heading out to hunt. Take note of power

lines and equipment, especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.

► **OBSERVE ALL SIGNS OR POSTINGS** that advise

electrical safety, especially when scouting a location for your tree stand.

► **DO NOT USE POWER POLES TO SUPPORT A TREE STAND.**

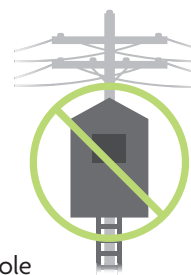
► **DO NOT PLACE A TREE STAND** near a power line or pole.

► **BE IN THE HABIT OF LOOKING UP** and out for power lines and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.

► **NEVER CLIMB A UTILITY POLE.**

Please report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months due to the vast amount of lines that cover our service area.

Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well. Stay safe out there! For more information about safety around power lines and other sources of electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.



SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS — APPLY FOR THESE AMAZING TRIPS!

YOUTH PROGRAMS BUILD

Leadership, Community, Memories

Ninnescah Electric will select two students to take an all-expenses-paid trip in the summer of 2021. If you are a high school sophomore or junior, submit your application for the chance to win one of these trips.



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

During both trips, students forge lifelong friendships and many become college roommates and professional colleagues. Most importantly, these youth programs inspire students to discover who they want to be.

Tour the Nation's Capital

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. Ninnescah will choose one winner to go to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 14-21, 2021. The weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with sightseeing. Students will visit many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

Ninnescah will also choose a winner to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 16-22, 2021. Rafting, hiking and building memories — it's not just another trip! At camp, you will join winners from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming to build valuable leadership skills. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylcvideo>.

and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

Adventure in the Rockies

How to Apply

To apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, please complete the form below or download it at www.ninnescah.com and return **BY DEC. 4, 2020**. Ninnescah will provide informational packets on which there will be a quiz and short interview (similar to a job interview) to select two winners. For more information, please contact Nancy Aschenbrenner at 800-828-5538.

Application for Youth Tour Contest — Due Dec. 4, 2020

To apply, please complete the application below and return to Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, 275 N.E. 20th St., P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124, **BY DEC. 4, 2020**.

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Phone Number(s) _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2021 Youth Tour competition sponsored by

Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

Know What to Do Around a Downed Power Line

Old Man Winter can create some pretty severe storms, which can interfere with power distribution or even bring down lines.

What is the most important thing to remember about a downed power line?

DO NOT GO NEAR IT. For any reason.

After a storm has caused damage in or alongside a roadway, be alert and slow down. Do not attempt to drive over downed lines. Do not try to drive through water or over snow or debris that may be covering downed lines. Driving over a line can pull more lines or related equipment down.

If you encounter a downed line, pull over and report the location to 911.

Here is additional information about downed lines, which can occur after a severe storm or an accident involving a power pole.

Q: CAN I TELL IF A DOWNED LINE IS ENERGIZED BY LOOKING?

A: No, there is no way to tell. Always assume a downed line (or any line) is

live, even if it is not buzzing or sparking.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POWER LINE OR OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT?

A: **DO NOT** get out of your car or truck. It is always safer to remain inside a vehicle, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 911, and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the electricity.

Q: IS THERE ANY REASON I SHOULD GET OUT OF THE VEHICLE?

A: Yes, but only when your vehicle is on fire or if you see smoke. If that is the case, make a clean jump from the vehicle without touching it (cross your arms closely to your chest), and then hop with feet together as far as you can — preferably 50 or more feet away.

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Fall Back on Nov. 1

On Sunday, Nov. 1, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.



Welcome New Members

James D &/or Makala J Fitzsimmons
— *Cunningham*

Jessica M Petty — *St. John*

Ross E. &/or Andrea L Fisher — *St. John*

Michelle Blackwood — *Birmingham, Alabama*

The Jess Montgomery Trust — *Friendswood, Texas*

Tim Carley — *Sumrall, Mississippi*

Dustin Goetz — *Viola*

Eli &/or Dinah Kessler — *Isabel*

Hestel J Sewell — *Rago*

MTM Petroleum Inc. — *Kingman*

Then. Now. Always.

We're proud to
power your life.

October is National
Co-op Month.

#PowerOn



Rural communities depend on co-op voters.

Election
Day is

Nov. 3,
2020



- ☒ Learn about the issues.
- ☒ Talk to your family and friends.
- ☒ Cast your vote.

Be an active participant in our democracy.
Be a co-op voter.
www.vote.coop

Know What to Do Around a Downed Power Line

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Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT WHEN A LINE IS DOWN?

A: Once a power line is in contact with a vehicle, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you. This is why you should hop or shuffle once you make a clean jump from the vehicle. Always keep your feet together — think of hopping like a bunny or shuffling like a penguin.

Q: WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

A: Put your window down and yell to others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

Q: WHAT IF I CAN'T TELL WHAT TYPE OF LINE IS DOWN?

A: Either way still stay in your vehicle and wait for the utility personnel to arrive.

Q: ARE THERE ANY OTHER INSTANCES WHEN THESE SAME SAFETY TIPS APPLY?

A: Yes, the same rules apply to any type of equipment (e.g., farming and construction equipment) that comes in



contact with overhead lines or electrical cabinets or equipment.

Q: SO JUST TO REVIEW, WHY AM I SAFE IN MY VEHICLE?

A: Because you are not a path for electricity while in a vehicle.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE WINDSHIELD IS BROKEN AND THE DOWNED WIRE IS IN MY CAR OR TRUCK?

A: Stay in the vehicle and do not touch or try to move the wire or attempt to use other objects to move the wire.

Q: WHAT IF I HIT A PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMER (METAL CABINET OR GREEN BOX) IN A YARD?

A: Pad-mounted transformers house electrical equipment connected to underground power lines. The same safety precautions apply to all of these cabinets and the voltage that could stray when damaged.

HVAC Maintenance

- **CHECK AND REPLACE YOUR AIR FILTERS.** Generally, air filters need to be replaced every 30-90 days. Dirty air filters can make your HVAC system less efficient, raising your energy bill and straining the system.
- **REMEMBER TO CLEAN YOUR OUTDOOR SYSTEM.** No debris, leaves, dirt, etc., should be left on or near your system to allow for maximum airflow. Don't forget to trim shrubs and plants around the unit as well.
- **CLEAN YOUR REGISTERS ANNUALLY.** Wipe down both the outside and the inside to ensure proper airflow.
- **GIVE YOUR SYSTEM A BREAK!** Switch your ceiling fans to spin clockwise to help circulate the air. While not creating a cool draft, this will push warm air down.

