

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-672-5538 • 800-828-5538  
www.ninnescah.com



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.

## The Power Behind Your Power

### Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Ninnescah's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our area. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water. Speaking of utility

poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on

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On April 11, our dedicated lineworkers deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

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learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Ninnescah's lineworkers are committed to powering our membership. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to our members.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in Kansas, Ninnescah has 8 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 2,135 miles of power lines

across 10 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the lives of our members. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on Monday, April 11, and follow #ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

## Notes of Appreciation from Our Membership

Ninnescah Electric Crew,

Jan. 2022

We would like to say THANK You for all the new electric poles, lines, transformers etc. The crew is very professional and work as a team perfectly. It was amazing how they did everything so precise and safety was always a priority with the crew. It was fascinating watching all the changes being made & how they were done. The crew is to be commended for their outstanding work! We appreciated the communication with us about when our electricity would be off & the expected length of time - made everything easy to plan for. Was pretty much exactly as they told us it would be.

So PROUD of the Ninnescah Electric Crew for keeping us safe and the "lights on".

We appreciate your team & crew.

Again  
THANK You!

Don & Carol Blankenship



## Help Us Locate These Former Members

Below is a listing of members who have retired capital credits owed to them, but for whom we no longer have valid mailing addresses. If you recognize a name on this list, please alert the member (or member's heirs) so they can begin working with the cooperative to claim the capital credits. Please have them contact our office at 620-672-5538 or 800-828-5538.

ADAIR SUSAN E	EATON BYRON	NIELSON VINCENT P
ALLEN KEITH	EDIGER THAYNE	NEW JERSEY NATL RES
ANTHONY DEAN	FOX MARY A	NYGREN DOUGLAS D
ANDERSON BERT D	FARMERS HOME ADMIN	NULIK-
AVILDSSEN RON	FAIDLEY ARLENE MRS	YOUNG DEBORAH
AHRENS LINDA K	FULKS FERN	NIENKE DIANA
ARY RON	GEE HELEN J	NUCENTRIX
BLACKWELDER KENNETH	GRABS EUGENE F	BBAND NETWORK
BRUCE CLIFFORD C	GREY JON S	PRATT COUNTY ASCS
BROWN DARREN L	GIBSON WILLIAM W	PALMER RYAN L
BARKER PATRICK N	GOLDEN BELT FEEDERS	ROMINE DARREL
BROKAR BILLY L	HOEME BETTY	RIBOLI TERRIE
BOHANNON JOHN L	HAMBLIN CLAYTON E	RENNAKER TERRY J
BERRY JAN R	HEINS TERRI J	SCHINSTOCK KAREN
BONTRAGER TROY E	HAINES	SCHOONOVER JOSEPH J
BLEVINS BERT	CONSTRUCTION CO	SEWARD WAYNE
CLARKS SERVICE	HAMILTON JACK	SCHNEIDER GARY
CHRISTIANS VIC L	HOWARD LINDON L	SOUTHERN
CRISLER GARY	JONES DON E	PLAINS COOP
COSTILLA PETRO CORP	KENNEDY PAUL G	STUDER G LEASE LLC
CROSS BAR	LAUCK D R OIL CO INC	SEAGULL
PETROLEUM INC	LESLEY RONNIE D	ENERGY E&P INC
DAVIS GERALD P	MORISSE JUDY	VOGT DAVID N
DYE DENNIS	MCCLINTON ESTHER R	WORDEN PAMELA
DELTA	MEYERS BRENDA	WISEMAN GARY
CABLEVISION OF KS	MYERS BEN	YOHNN GILBERT
DOZE ELWOOD L	MITCHELL JOHN	ZIEGLER STEVE
EUBANK JAMES	MCANULLA ROGER	
E & C FARMS	MORRISON RITA A	

## Don't Wait too Long to Pay a Delinquent Bill

A job Ninnescah Electric employees and some members dread each month is the collection of delinquent electric accounts.

Ninnescah notifies the delinquent member three times prior to collection:

- ▶ We mail nonpayment notices;
- ▶ The past due amount is listed on the new bill; and
- ▶ We make courtesy calls reminding members of the delinquent bill.

We will no longer make courtesy collection trips. This means if we have to go to your home, we will either collect the money or the meter will be disconnected for nonpayment, and the additional charges listed below apply.

Trip Charges (per meter)	
Collection Charges	\$50 + tax
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge before 3 p.m.	\$100 + tax
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge after 3 p.m.	\$150 + tax
Plus the amount of your delinquent bill.	

If you have any questions about a delinquent bill or need to make payment arrangements, please call our office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 620-672-5538 or 800-828-5538.

## Welcome New Members

Tracy A &/or Susan Chamberlin – *Zenda*  
 Derek Jones &/or Kayla Isenhour – *Haviland*  
 Hughes Farms LLC – *Aline, OK*  
 Charles Jordan – *Natchez, MS*  
 Brian Zoeller – *Kingman*  
 Max D &/or Mary C Fisher – *McLean, VA*  
 Landwehr-93 Fam Tr dated 3/26/93 – *Garden Plain*  
 BCE-Mach III LLC – *Oklahoma City, OK*  
 John C &/or Patricia L Spitzer – *Pratt*  
 Jeremy L &/or Audrey Wadel – *Greensburg*  
 Jacob &/or K Siroky – *Pratt*  
 Christopher L Rickard – *Medicine Lodge*  
 Travis H Hodson – *Pratt*  
 Michael L Taylor – *Greensburg*



# Call Before You DIG

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

- ▶ **RED** – Electric
- ▶ **ORANGE** – Communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ **BLUE** – Potable water
- ▶ **GREEN** – Sewer/Drainage

- ▶ **YELLOW** – Gas/Petroleum pipeline
- ▶ **PURPLE** – Reclaimed water
- ▶ **WHITE** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

Know that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include an underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) and [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



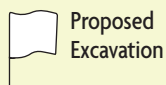
## DON'T FORGET!

If you have private utilities such as underground fencing, sprinkler systems or utilities to detached buildings, you must also call a private utility locator to have those marked.

## The 811 on Underground Utility Flags

Digging into an outdoor project? Dial 811 or visit [Kansas811.com](http://Kansas811.com) first to protect underground utility lines.

A locator will respond in 2-3 business days and provide markers for affected utilities. But what do all the flags mean? Let's find out!



Proposed  
Excavation



Electric power  
lines, cables,  
conduit and  
lighting cables



Communication,  
alarm or signal  
lines, cables or  
conduit



Reclaimed  
water, irrigation  
and slurry lines



Temporary  
survey markings



Gas, oil, steam,  
petroleum  
or gaseous  
materials



Potable water



Sewers and  
drain lines

SOURCE: KANSAS 811