

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
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www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen.

For most Ninnescah Electric members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do Ninnescah Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either

mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Ninnescah Electric keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of infrastructure damage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Ninnescah Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire area. Trimming improves power reliability for our members. In

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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.

Welcome New Members

Dylan Jacks – *Haviland*

April Westberry – *Lake City*

Brian Arensdorf – *Pratt*

Val Energy Inc – *Wichita*

KWBB Inc – *Macksville*

Larry L &/or Linda C Hamm – *Pratt*

Chase Harter – *Pawnee Rock*

Amy Harter Farm LLC –

Pawnee Rock

Robert L Hixson – *Lake Dallas, TX*

Griffin Management LLC – *Pratt*

A Quick Guide to GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before purchasing a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



	TYPE	POWER
HOW OFTEN DO YOU LOSE POWER?	RARELY	RECREATIONAL INVERTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 2,000 watts ▶ lightweight, about 60 lbs. ▶ quiet, easy to store
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger, home security system)
	OCCASIONALLY	MID-SIZED INVERTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 3,500 watts ▶ weighs up to 150 lbs.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ laptop ▶ 5-10 lights ▶ phone charger ▶ home security system ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner
	FREQUENTLY	PORTABLE GENERATORS AND LARGE INVERTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 7,500 watts ▶ weighs about 300 lbs. ▶ ability to connect to home's breaker panel
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ gas furnace ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner ▶ dishwasher ▶ multiple lights ▶ TV ▶ laptop and more
		TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED
		HOME STANDBY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 20,000 watts ▶ must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously) ▶ can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane
		TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED

SAFETY FIRST!

- ▶ Call us if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electrical panel.
- ▶ Improperly installed generators can create backfeed, which is dangerous to everyone. Before using one, disconnect your normal source of power.
- ▶ Operate a generator outdoors only.
- ▶ **DISCLAIMER:** Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

SOURCE: CONSUMER REPORTS

Annual Meeting Highlights



Ninnescah held its 84th annual meeting on March 15, 2022, at the Pratt Municipal Building. Members enjoyed a wonderful meal served by Fence Post of Harper.

This year's guest speakers were Phil Wages, director of member services /government affairs and business development, KEPCo; and Lee Tafanelli, CEO, Kansas Electric Cooperatives. Congratulations to the winner of the annual meeting, "Build a Word Challenge," **NORMAN HILDEBRAND**, who received a \$50 credit on his electric bill. Thank you for attending! We hope to see you again next year.



Board of Trustees Election Results

Thank you for sending in your ballots for the 2022 board of trustees election. All trustees were re-elected for three-year terms. Results were announced at our annual meeting and are as follows: **GLEN HONEMAN**, Iuka; **RUTH TEICHMAN**, Stafford; **PAUL UNRUH**, Greensburg.



Glen Honeman



Ruth Teichman



Paul Unruh

Scholarship Winners Announced

The 2022 Ninnescah Rural Electric Scholarship contest was held at Ninnescah's office in February. Contestants took a test based on an information packet provided to them and were interviewed by a panel of three judges.

Contestants included: Cassidy Ary, Lewis; Brett Atteberry, Pratt; Ty Binford, Haviland; Dustin Cox, Pratt; Anniston Henning, Harper; and Emma Hottovy, Haviland.

Our winners of the 2022 scholarships will each receive a \$1,000 to use at the college or technical school of their choice. They are **BRETT ATTEBERRY, DUSTIN COX, ANNISTON HENNING** and **EMMA HOTTOVY**.

We are hopeful the youth trips will resume next year. They are open to sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Ninnescah. Those living in our service territory may also participate even though the service is not listed in their parents name. Please contact Nancy Aschenbrenner for information about the trips/scholarships for next year at 800-828-5538.



Cassidy Ary



Brett Atteberry



Ty Binford



Dustin Cox



Anniston Henning



Emma Hottovy



Test Your GFCI Outlets ONCE A MONTH

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) can fail without notice, so check them on the first or last day of each month.

HOW TO TEST A GFCI OUTLET

- ▶ Find the test and reset buttons.
- ▶ Press the TEST button.
- ▶ The outlet should trip with a “snap” sound.

CONFIRM THE POWER IS OUT

- ▶ Plug in a lamp or other device.
- ▶ The item you plug in should not turn on.

RESET THE OUTLET

- ▶ Once you confirm the GFCI is working properly (that the outlet does **NOT** work when tested), press the reset button to restore power to the outlet.

RETEST FOR REMAINING SOCKET(S)

- ▶ You can also buy a GFCI outlet tester with a display and test button.

GFCI protection can also be installed on circuit breakers to safeguard an entire circuit. Test monthly by pressing the test button on the breaker. If working properly, the interrupter should shut off power to the circuit.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

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addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through SmartHub by downloading the app to your mobile device or logging in at www.ninnescah.com. You can also call our outage reporting number at 620-672-5538 or 800-828-5538.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Ninnescah Electric you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Selecting a Tree? Know Its Mature Height

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Ninnescah Electric and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, contact Kansas 811 by simply calling 811, visiting 811kansas.com or downloading the Kansas 811 app to schedule a utility locate before putting a shovel to the ground. The "Call Before You Dig" number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines

or pipes such as sprinkler systems and invisible fencing.

► If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the tree's location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.

► It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.

► Tall growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.

Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

Outage Management Information

Ninnescah Rural Electric has a live outage map available to our members. The map shows the general location and number of system outages. We have been updating and utilizing the capabilities of our operations software over the past couple of years and want to make you, our members, aware of the information that is available. This outage map is located on our website (www.ninnescah.com) — just click on the "Outages" tab at the top of the page to see the general area of outages. The outages indicate the number of meters that are out of power. Due to security protocol, we are not able to show outages at a meter level, but this map will give you a general idea of the size of an outage. The outage map

can also be accessed on the SmartHub website and mobile app.

More on SmartHub

SmartHub is a web and mobile application that delivers accurate, timely account information and the ability to pay your electric bill. Using SmartHub on your computer, phone or tablet, you will be able to:

- Pay your bill.
- View billing history.
- View electricity usage and history.
- View account information.
- Receive notifications.
- Report an issue/outage.

To register for SmartHub, visit our website at

ninnescah.com and click on the icon at the top of the homepage, or download the application on your mobile device in the Apple App Store or Google Play for Android devices. You can also visit our website for detailed information on how to download and register for SmartHub.

If you need help with the app, please feel free to contact us at 800-828-5538 or stop in the office — we'll be happy to help!

