

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



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

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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.

New Ways to Use Electricity

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether choosing between a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to

Energy Star®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered

Continued on page 12C ▶



The Steps to RESTORING POWER

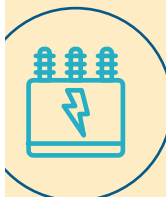
When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible — until everyone has power.

1 | High-Voltage Transmission Lines



These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.

2 | Distribution Substations



Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.

3 | Main Distribution Lines



Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.

4 | Individual Homes and Businesses



After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

Storm season is in full swing. Summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes — they can happen anytime, anywhere, and bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the Storm

- ▶ Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- ▶ Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate — having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water,

non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- ▶ Pay attention to local weather alerts — either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio — and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to act.
- ▶ If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- ▶ If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- ▶ If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
 - ▶ Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
 - ▶ Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.
- Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.



New Ways to Use Electricity

Continued from page 12A ►

tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug-in such as power inverters, air inflaters and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, “A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited — electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles.”

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

“There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes — even airplanes and boats,” says Dennis. “With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market.”

A case in point is the increased use

of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something not possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increased renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick — improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.

PRACTICE STORM SAFETY

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees or power lines are down.



Welcome New Members

Rose M Spain – *Haviland*
Joseph &/or Anita Mills – *Sawyer*
Dalton Cole – *Sylvia*
Dan Petz – *Pratt*
Sean Knowles – *Hawkinsville, GA*
Jerri R &/or Christopher D Parsons – *South Hutchinson*
Clinton E &/or Cyndee K Tuttle – *Haviland*
Taylor A &/or Ashley D Schmidt – *Pratt*
Kessler Properties LLC – *Sawyer*
Ronald E Booth – *Haviland*

What is Electric Shock Drowning? Know the signs of this hidden danger.

Electric shock drowning (ESD) happens when electrical current seeps into water from a nearby electrical source such as a yacht, boat or dock. It can also happen in a pool, hot tub or water park if there are any electrical issues.

To Prevent and Recognize ESD:

- ▶ Do not swim around docks with electrical service or boats that are plugged into a power source.
- ▶ If you are swimming and feel tingling or shocks, swim away from the dock or other electrical source.
 - ▶ Try to stay upright and tuck your legs up.
 - ▶ Alert others to cut the power source.
- ▶ Do not jump in to save someone you suspect is exposed to electricity in the water.

Instead:

- ▶ Eliminate the source of power.
- ▶ Throw a float.
- ▶ Call 911.
- ▶ After the power is shut off, pull the person in with the float rope. If you cannot find a pulse, start CPR.

Prevention and Maintenance

BOATS | Ensure circuits have GFCIs and check them often.

DOCKS | Have the electrical system inspected regularly by a licensed contractor.

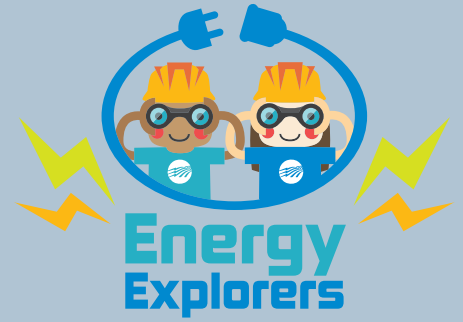
Learning about the danger of ESD can help keep you and others safe in the water.



SUMMER STORM SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Summer means fun in the sun! But the season can also bring strong thunderstorms.

Read the storm safety tips below, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.



T	D	D	N	U	D	O	L	O	H	X	W	S	X	S
K	H	H	B	K	X	S	N	J	M	I	Z	T	X	M
B	Q	U	Z	C	J	I	E	T	N	T	A	R	Z	C
Y	E	R	N	Z	T	Q	N	D	Z	Y	X	U	E	S
J	L	F	S	D	K	O	O	N	N	G	E	C	K	A
P	Q	Y	H	U	E	W	N	B	V	M	O	T	V	D
V	S	H	C	P	S	R	W	E	L	J	R	U	S	U
D	B	N	H	C	H	Q	X	T	D	T	A	R	L	U
H	X	H	M	M	U	B	V	Z	P	T	Q	E	K	X
A	R	L	L	N	E	F	Q	X	E	B	G	S	T	R
Y	X	Z	N	I	I	Q	F	T	R	T	B	E	U	S
L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G	L	G	W	B	G	B
T	I	K	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	F	S	W
O	N	I	D	F	A	D	V	M	V	V	K	N	T	M
G	Q	D	F	H	Y	L	R	N	O	C	A	W	R	E

- ▶ If you hear thunder, that means **LIGHTNING** can strike nearby. Go indoors.
- ▶ Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of **THUNDER** before going back outside.
- ▶ During a thunderstorm, stay away from tall, isolated **STRUCTURES** or trees, which are more susceptible to lightning strikes.
- ▶ Avoid standing near **WINDOWS** during a thunderstorm.
- ▶ Strong summer storms occasionally cause power outages. During an outage, it's best to have an **EMERGENCY KIT** on hand.