



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 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Serving up Savings

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, we thought this month would be a good time to remind Ninnescah Rural Electric members of efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

Programs Designed to Help You Save

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows, can positively impact energy bills.

Be Festive Without Breaking the Bank

Each year, often as soon as we finish the Thanksgiving turkey, we begin pre-

paring and placing our favorite Christmas decorations. With holiday lights adorning homes for well over a month, make the switch to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

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Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!



Welcome New Members

ECK Management Co LLC – *Kingman*

Charley Ridge Tr FBO Helen Baily Tr &/
or Charley Ridge Tr FBO Evelyn Hunt TR
– *Hutchinson*

Lamar Johnson – *Grove Hill, AL*



Serving up Savings

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Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

Cook Up Energy Savings in the Kitchen

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to

cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning up front, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at Ninnescah Rural Electric, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and pressure cookers consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



DON'T LET POWER LINES Fade into the Landscape

3 Types of Overhead Lines



TRANSMISSION



DISTRIBUTION



SERVICE DROP

Regardless of the type or voltage, any power line can kill if the path of the electrical current is disrupted.



Always look up and look out for power lines when working outdoors.



Be careful any time you go up, whether it be on a ladder, scissor lift or in a cherry picker.

Look for Power Lines When:



Operating a crane, concrete or pump truck.



Raising a truck bed.



Using any long tool or equipment that extends.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

Cold Weather Rule Begins



Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills.

The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the member's request;
- ▶ The service is abandoned;
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- ▶ The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

To Qualify for the CWR the Member Must Do the Following:

- ▶ Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- ▶ Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- ▶ NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- ▶ Apply for any federal, state or local funds for which the member may qualify.

The Cooperative Will:

- ▶ Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- ▶ The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record. If the member is unable to be contacted, a disconnect notice will be left on the door by a co-op employee; and
- ▶ Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.

Winter Rates Now in Effect

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates will go into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Single Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$27.50
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Three Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$37.00
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation – No Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1156 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation – Direct Co-op Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$37.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.0706 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly

Beware of Damaged Power Equipment

Energy can spread like ripples on a pond

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time. However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and pad-mounted transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

What Can Occur When Utility Equipment is Damaged?

▶ **STEP POTENTIAL** happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another, and their feet experience a difference in voltage.

▶ **TOUCH POTENTIAL** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to Stay Safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment.

TO STAY SAFE AROUND DAMAGED UTILITY EQUIPMENT:

- ▶ Stay inside your vehicle.
- ▶ Call 911.
- ▶ Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- ▶ Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

IF YOU MUST EXIT DUE TO A FIRE, CAREFULLY DO THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- ▶ Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- ▶ Make solid hops with your feet together and hop as far away as you can.
- ▶ If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- ▶ Do not return to the vehicle.

IF YOU ARE NEAR THE SCENE:

- ▶ Do not approach the scene to help.
- ▶ Stay at least 50 feet away.
- ▶ Do not lean on or touch anything.
- ▶ Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged pad-mounted transformer.

OUTAGE TIMELINE



LINEMAN IS NOTIFIED

They ask questions to determine if it's an individual or section outage and its location.



CAUSE LOCATED — SAFETY FIRST

Once the cause is located, a safety briefing takes place, identifying hazards and locations of lineworkers and equipment. Lineworkers then isolate and ground the line to prevent backfeed.



REPAIRS COMPLETE

The lineworkers contact dispatch to get clearance to re-energize the line. Once dispatch confirms no one else is working on the line, the breaker is closed restoring power.



THE DRIVE

A crew is dispatched to the outage site. If after hours, lineworkers must travel from their homes, which often adds additional travel time.



WORK BEGINS

Lineworkers take special care and awareness to remove objects causing the outage. While crews work to clear the line, materials required for repairs are located and in transit.



POWER RESTORED — OUTAGE OVER

Restoration time varies by outage depending on the cause, location and materials needed for repair.



ARRIVAL AND INSPECTION

Crews visually inspect the line for open breakers and cause of outage. Evaluating the outage is time consuming but one of the most important steps of restoration.



MATERIALS ARRIVE

Materials and equipment arrive onsite to make the repair. Broken material is removed, inspections performed and repairs made.



CREWS RETURN SAFELY HOME

Our goal is to restore power safely and efficiently and ensure co-op employees go home safe after work is complete.



NOTE: OUTAGE AND RESTORATION TIMELINES VARY BY OUTAGE TYPE AND SEVERITY OF LINE DAMAGE.