

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Carol Kay
- ▶ Nathan King
- ▶ Jordan Leak
- ▶ Chris Lowery
- ▶ Margaret McMurphey
- ▶ Lou Melgren

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Planned or Prescribed Burn Rule and Regulation

To protect infrastructure owned by CMS Electric Cooperative, including poles, equipment and power lines, from danger due to planned or prescribed pasture burns, the board has enacted Section 10, item B of the co-op rules and regulations effective March 27, 2023.

B. PLANNED OR PRESCRIBED BURNS AFFECTING PROPERTY OF CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

(1) To ensure that there is direct communication with members who are landowners regarding planned or prescribed burns of pasture or cropland for the purpose of protecting the property of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. when the planned burn area includes poles, equipment, and lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Further, to outline acceptable action by the landowner for the protection of such property of the electric cooperative, and to make it clear under what circumstances the member will be responsible for the costs of repair and replacement of damaged property of the electric cooperative.

(2) REQUIRED ACTION OF MEMBERS

Any member of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. who is an owner of land, or a tenant on land or adjacent to land that contains poles, equipment, and lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and further, when such Member intends to conduct a planned or prescribed burn on such land, such member or such member's agent or person conducting the burn shall proceed as follows:

- (a) All regulations relating to prescribed burns as set forth in the Kansas Administrative Regulations setting for the rules and guidelines for prescribed burns applicable to Kansas must be followed. K.S.A. §28-19-64et seq.
- (b) Within 24 hours of conducting such a planned burn

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Planned or Prescribed Burn Rule and Regulation

Continued from page 12A ▶

of the surface of such land, contact the office of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. to inform the cooperative that such planned burn will take place and when and where it is intended to take place, specifically describing the legal description for the location of such burn.

(c) No more than one month prior to conducting such planned burn, the member or the member's agent or agents shall clear the surface debris and combustible dry growth to the surface of the ground around each utility pole of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the area to be cleared shall be 10 feet from the pole in all directions. This shall be done by burning the area described or by trimming weeds, raking, or scraping the ground so that there is no dry vegetation on the surface within the 10-foot area around each utility pole.

(d) After the most recent growing season and no more than six (6) months prior to said planned or prescribed burn, for pasture, weeds and grass, the area under the electric lines of the cooperative shall be mowed to a width that is at least 15 feet outside of the line or lines on each side of the extent possible.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY

(a) It is the responsibility of the member who is the landowner or tenant responsible for the planned burn to comply with the requirements set forth herein. Photographs shall be taken by the member or the member's agent in order to establish compliance, in the event of any concern that arises after the fire has been completed. In the event the above requirements have been

met, and proof of the same established to the satisfaction of the electric cooperative, and in the further event that there is damage to the poles, equipment or lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., then the electric cooperative shall stand the cost of repair or replacement to any damaged poles, equipment, or lines.

(b) In the event that the member chooses to not comply with this rule or has not complied with this rule and policy of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and in the further event that a planned or prescribed burn is conducted and there is damage to the poles, equipment or lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., then it shall be the member's responsibility and requirement to stand the cost of repair or replacement to any damaged poles, equipment, or lines.

(c) The measure of damages for a member who is responsible as set forth above shall be as set forth in *Kansas Power and Light Co. v Thatcher*, 797 P. 2nd 162, 14 Kan App 2d 613 (1990), which is the amount necessary to allow the electric cooperative to recover the cost of replacing or repairing the pole, equipment, or line, without deduction for depreciation, that was damaged by the member's actions.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE

This rule, 10 B, shall become effective upon the mailing of a complete copy of the same to all members, which may be done in connection with billing and/or by publication in *Kansas Country Living Magazine*. The mailing or publication shall occur after the date of the approval by the Board of Trustees of these Rules and Regulations.



LABOR Day
Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day,
our office will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPT. 2.

TALK TO YOUR TEEN DRIVERS

Remind your teen drivers to slow down and pay attention when kids are present — especially before and after school.



For Safety's Sake, Don't Mess With a Meter

For your safety, never tamper with or pull (remove) a meter. Only electric utility crews should access an electric meter.

Illegally accessing a meter can cause an arc flash bright enough to result in blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.

Unfortunately, individuals may unlawfully try to tamper with a meter to bypass it, create an illegal connection to a power line, electrify fences or attempt to reconnect or disconnect the power, often resulting in disastrous consequences.

MORE ON METER SAFETY

- ▶ Tampering with a meter is illegal in Kansas.
- ▶ Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- ▶ Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or a dedicated disconnection point.

- ▶ Accessing the backside of a meter can generate high voltage; pulling or tampering with a meter can cause electric shock, sparks, surges, explosions or fire.
- ▶ There is no guarantee that a structure is deenergized by pulling a meter.
- ▶ If firefighters respond to a call and know they will need a disconnect, they should call the electric utility en route to the scene.
- ▶ If firefighters try disconnecting a home by pulling a meter, it can introduce additional problems and damage.

OTHER FACTS

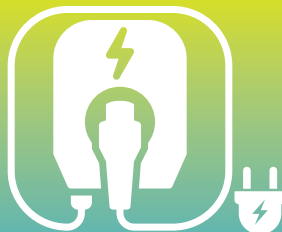
If a home's electricity is shut off at a main disconnect, the house can be automatically reconnected if there is a standby generator or battery-stored power.

Only the electric utility can properly and safely disconnect a meter. Utility crews are trained in proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

SAFETY TIP

Are you interested in buying a level 2 charger for your electric vehicle? Have the charger installed by a qualified, licensed electrician or contractor. Charging stations may draw more power than your home can handle or, if not wired correctly, can overheat and cause a fire.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM

METER TAMPERING IS NOT WORTH IT.

For your safety, never tamper with or remove a meter. Doing so could result in an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network.

ONLY ELECTRIC UTILITY CREWS CAN PROPERLY AND SAFELY DISCONNECT A METER. They are trained in safe and proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

METER FACTS

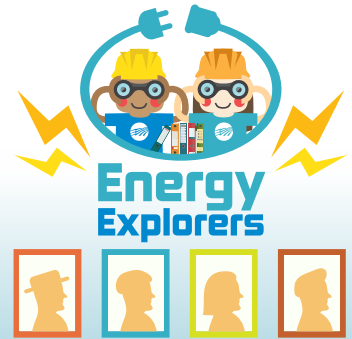
- ▶ Tampering with a meter is illegal in most states.
- ▶ Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- ▶ Accessing the backside of a meter could generate high voltage.
- ▶ Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.
- ▶ Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or dedicated disconnection point.
- ▶ There is no guarantee that a structure will be de-energized by pulling a meter.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, practice electrical safety in the classroom and at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double-check your answers in the key.



ACROSS

- 1. Never insert anything other than a _____ into an electrical outlet.
- 4. When outdoors, stay away from pad-mounted _____, big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

DOWN

- 1. Never play around _____ when you're outside; you can get hurt!
- 2. Don't yank on a _____ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
- 3. Always make sure your hands are _____ before plugging anything in.

ANSWER KEY

3. DOWN
DRY

2. DOWN
CORD

1. DOWN
POWER LINES

4. ACROSS
TRANSFORMERS

1. ACROSS
PLUG