



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box 790, 509 E. Carthage, Meade, KS 67864
 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353
 www.cmselectric.com

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Ron Oliver
President

Michael Johnson
Vice President

Linda Tomlinson
Secretary-Treasurer

Wes McKinney
Trustee

Joe Murphy
Trustee

Don Nighswonger
Trustee

Rock Ormiston II
Trustee

Keith Randall
Trustee

R. Gary Warden
Trustee

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Dean Ives
- ▶ Daniel Jenkins
- ▶ Jim Keltner
- ▶ William Kobs
- ▶ Wilma Greer
- ▶ Tom Harmon

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, CMS Electric and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

Staying Safe on the Road

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.

- ▶ **IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE**, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle, do not get out, until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to do so.
- ▶ **DO NOT DRIVE OVER A DOWNED POWER LINE**. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
- ▶ **THE ONLY TIME YOU SHOULD EXIT IS IF YOUR VEHICLE OR CAB IS ON**

FIRE. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

Staying Safe Outside

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

- ▶ **KEEP AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY** from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles, ladders or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
- ▶ **MAKE SURE ALL OUTSIDE OUTLETS ARE GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (GFCI)** protected.
- ▶ **BEFORE DIGGING, CONTACT KANSAS 811** to locate underground utility lines. Either call 811 to schedule a locate or visit kansas811.com/homeowners.

Continued on page 12C ▶

REMEMBER AND HONOR

MEMORIAL DAY

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 30, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, May 31 at 8 a.m.



Happy Mother's Day

May 8, 2022

Join us at the 76th CMS Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 5, at the Meade County Fairgrounds

The 2022 CMS Annual Meeting of the Members will be on Thursday, May 5 at the Meade County Fairgrounds in Meade, Kansas. There will be a delicious meal, catered by John Ross, for all cooperative members and their immediate family starting at 5:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Business will include reports on cooperative activities and the election of trustees. Valuable prizes and many energy credit certificates will be given away at the conclusion of the meeting. You must be present at the time of drawings to win. Please don't miss your annual meeting. Your participation is important!



Share the Road Safely with Motorcyclists

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month — a good reminder to watch for motorcycles when out on the road.

“Traffic is returning to pre-pandemic levels, families are planning for summer road trips and interest in motorcycling — for commuting and recreating — is seeing strong growth,” according to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). “This means more drivers and riders will be out on the roads this summer.”

Per vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists are approximately 29 times likelier than those in passenger vehicles to die in a motor vehicle crash and four times likelier to be injured, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The MSF reminds everyone to look out for one another, whether you are a car or truck driver, motorcycle or scooter rider, bicyclist or pedestrian. The foundation wants to get the word out to drivers and riders alike and offers the following safety tips.

Five Tips for Drivers

1 TAKE AN EXTRA MOMENT TO LOOK FOR MOTORCYCLES. Because of their small size, motorcycles can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots, so check and check again before changing lanes and making turns.

2 PREDICT THAT A MOTORCYCLE IS CLOSER THAN IT LOOKS. A motorcycle may look farther away than it is because of its small size, and it may be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, consider a motorcycle is closer than it appears.

3 KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE. Motorcyclists often slow down by rolling off the throttle or downshifting, thus not activating the brake light. Because of this, allow more following distance than you would for a car — about three to four seconds.

4 UNDERSTAND LANE SHIFTING. Motorcyclists often adjust their position within a lane to be seen more easily, and to maneuver around road debris, passing vehicles and wind. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane positions for a purpose.

5 SEE THE PERSON. When a motorcycle is in motion, see more than the motorcycle — see the person under the helmet, who could be your friend, neighbor or relative.

Five Tips for Riders

1 BE VISIBLE. Motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles, so wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet. Have your headlight on, day and night, and avoid riding in blind spots of cars and trucks. If possible, flash your brake light when slowing down and before stopping.

2 PRETEND YOU ARE INVISIBLE. If you assume others on the road cannot see you and any car that can hit you will hit you, you will tend to ride with a hyperaware mindset. Take extra responsibility for your safety and ride defensively.

3 GEAR UP FOR EVERY RIDE. Wear proper riding gear from head to toe. Full face helmets provide the best protection, and jackets, pants, gloves and boots made for riding will generally be made of abrasion-resistant material, include protective armor and provide additional comfort.

4 USE GOOD STREET STRATEGIES. Constantly search the road for changing conditions and use the search-evaluate-execute (SEE) strategy to assess and respond to hazards before you have to react to an emergency.

5 BEFORE YOU RIDE, CHECK YOUR BIKE. Make a habit of doing a pre-ride check, which includes looking over your tires and wheels, checking fluids, cables, your bike's chassis, lights, electronics and the stands. Use the T-CLOCS inspection checklist, available at msf-usa.org, to help you.

May is Electrical Safety Month Continued from page 12A

There is also a Kansas 811 app you can download. Besides the dangers of encountering a gas or electric line, homeowners and landowners could be fined for any damages as a result of improper digging. Keep in mind privately owned lines and systems, such as invisible fencing and sprinkler systems, will not be marked by the free 811 service.

- ▶ **WHEN YOU SEE LIGHTNING, TAKE SHELTER INSIDE** the house, shop or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Avoid items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

Staying Safe Inside

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

- ▶ **HAVE A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN/ LICENSED CONTRACTOR CHECK FOR HAZARDS** if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items, or circuits that trip often.
- ▶ **WHEN WORKING WITH ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT** inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
- ▶ **DO NOT OVERSTRETCH A CORD** or use frayed or damaged cords.
- ▶ **DURING STORMS**, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.



PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

May is Electrical Safety Month
Make Electrical Safety a priority this month and every month.

TIP Before planning those outdoor barbecues, make sure patios and pool areas are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.



Powering Lives. Empowering Communities.

Our mission is to serve. Our priority is you.

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 MIDSIZED INVERTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 3,500 watts ▶ weighs up to 150 lbs.
	OCCASIONALLY	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 ▶ TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED
FREQUENTLY	HOME STANDBY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 20,000 watts ▶ must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage ▶ TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger, home security system) ▶ fridge ▶ laptop ▶ 5-10 lights ▶ phone charger ▶ home security system ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner ▶ fridge ▶ gas furnace ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner ▶ dishwasher ▶ multiple lights ▶ TV ▶ laptop and more ▶ nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously) ▶ can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

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

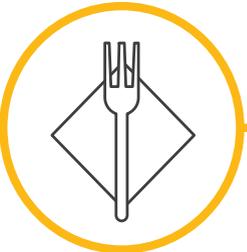
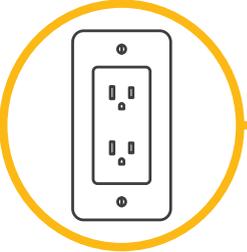
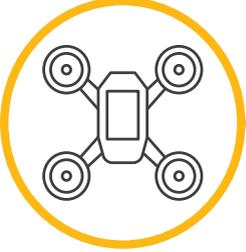
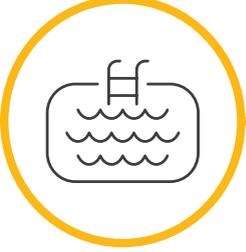
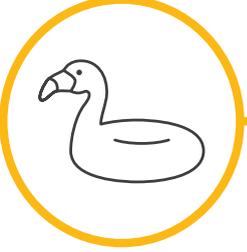
SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD



After you complete this activity, color the items with crayons or colored pencils.

When combined, electricity and common items that seem harmless can create dangerous situations. Look at the items grouped below, then circle the two items that, when combined, create an electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key.

1			
	toaster	fork	bagel
2			
	hairdryer	electrical outlet	running water
3			
	drone	power lines	picnic
4			
	swimming pool	floatie	extension cord

Answer Key: 1) fork & toaster 2) hairdryer & water or outlet & water 3) drone & power lines 4) extension cord & pool