

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Betty-Jo Maris
- ▶ Kenneth Miller
- ▶ Levi Miller
- ▶ Ramola Norton
- ▶ Jacqueline Ortega
- ▶ Mariela Paredes

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

### NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

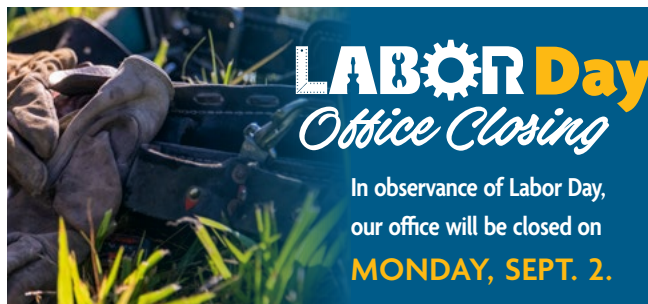
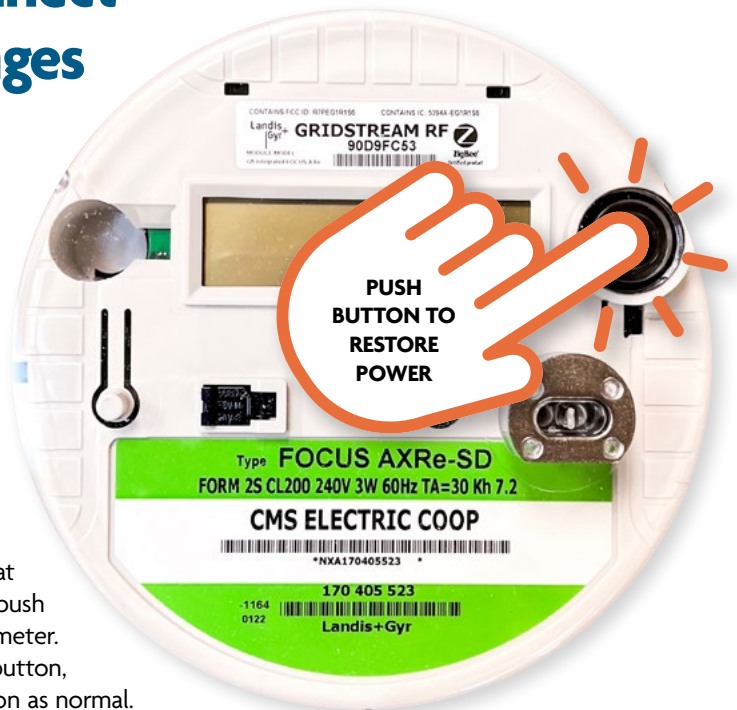
## Updated AMI System Brings Disconnect Process Changes

CMS Electric has worked on updating our metering infrastructure and to have new meters across our service territory by 2026.

With our new process, we will no longer be removing physical meters but rather disconnecting/reconnecting them remotely from our offices.

Now this is where you (the member) will need to do your part to get reconnected and that would be by pushing the black push button that is located on your meter.

Once you have pushed that button, then your power should come on as normal. If your power does not restore as it should, please check your breakers and then please contact our office 800-794-2353 and we can send a lineman to check out the meter.



**LABOR Day**  
*Office Closing*

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

## IT'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

For an emergency preparedness checklist, visit [www.kansastag.gov/359/Build-a-Kit](http://www.kansastag.gov/359/Build-a-Kit).

## BEYOND OPENING THE BOX:

## Take Steps to Operate a Generator Safely

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

**BUT FIRST, HOMEWORK**

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system by a licensed electrician and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

**SAFETY TIPS**

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated

during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

**GENERATORS CAN BE DEADLY**

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

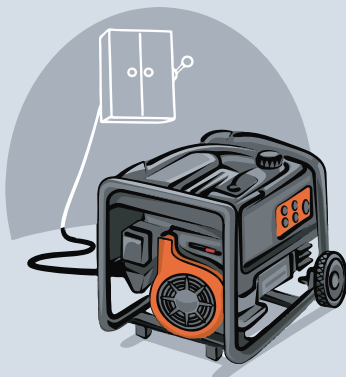
Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

**WHEN NOT IN USE**

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more electrical safety information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## What is a **TRANSFER SWITCH?**

**TRANSFER, THROW OR DOUBLE-THROW SWITCH:**

*An essential mechanism that safely shuts off power to the electrical grid before backup power is used. It is sometimes referred to as a double-throw switch, as it controls two separate circuits.*

This switch's job is to safely transfer power from its primary source to a backup power source, enabling users to maintain power during an outage. It works by connecting a generator to your home's main circuits to provide backup power.

Properly installed transfer switches are essential because they prevent dangerous backfeed into the power grid, which endangers utility workers and others. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, as this can cause backfeed.

SOURCE: [WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM](http://WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM)

# 5 TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

- 1** Maintain at least a 20-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
- 2** Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
- 3** Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
- 4** Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
- 5** Keep first-aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.

## Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. Even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

### 360 AWARENESS

Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground power lines, defective wiring in farm buildings and

extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact your local electric cooperative.

### SMART HARVEST SAFETY TIPS

To ensure a safer harvest season, [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- ▶ **EXERCISE CAUTION NEAR POWER LINES.** Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ **USE SPOTTERS WHEN OPERATING LARGE MACHINERY NEAR POWER LINES.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- ▶ **LOWER EQUIPMENT EXTENSIONS, PORTABLE AUGERS OR ELEVATORS BEFORE MOVING OR TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into

power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.

- ▶ **NEVER ATTEMPT TO RAISE OR MOVE POWER LINES TO CLEAR A PATH.**

Doing so could result in electric shock or death.

- ▶ **AVOID USING METAL POLES INSIDE BINS.** Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.

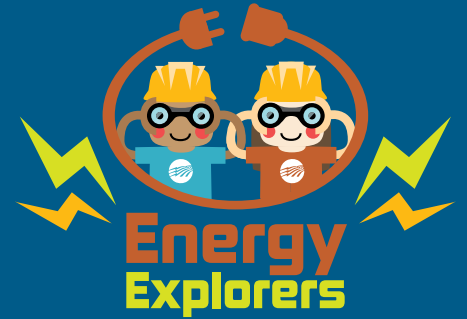
- ▶ **HIRE QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS.**

Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. If that happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. After exiting the vehicle, keep your feet together and "hop" away or shuffle your feet across the ground. Never lift a foot — this will keep you from having different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop at least 50 feet to safety as you leave the area.

# PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency. Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.  
*(Use the word bank as a guide.)*



## PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a first-aid kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.



**WORD BANK:** phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms