



P.O. Box B | 1564 S. 1000 Road, Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5144 | www.flinthillsrec.com



NEWS

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For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

FROM THE MANAGER

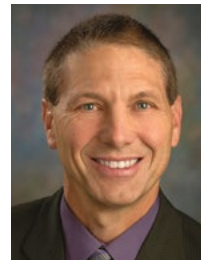
May Your Holidays Be Merry and Bright

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Flint Hills REC cares about your wellbeing. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine at daylight savings time each year, so it's easy to



Chuck Goeckel

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS BOARD TO CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RIDERS

The Flint Hills REC Board of Trustees will discuss and vote upon modifications to its distributed generation riders in November. This meeting is open to the membership and will be held on **MONDAY, NOV. 18, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M.** at the cooperative's office at 1564 S. 1000 Road in Council Grove.

If you have questions or comments, and you are unable to attend, you may call the Flint Hills REC office at 620-767-5144 or send written comments to Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to petition the Kansas Corporation Commission for review of a rate change.

Over the past four months the board of trustees reviewed all distributed generation riders. Those riders include parallel generation rider, parallel generation rider-renewable and net metering rider. The board of trustees is also introducing a commercial interconnection rider.

The proposed changes to the parallel generation rider and the parallel generation rider-renewable increase the total amount of AC capacity output of interconnections available under these riders from 4% of the cooperative's previous year's peak load to 5%. The current 4% limit includes all interconnections. The proposed 5% limit will only include the AC capacity output for the combined interconnections on the parallel generation rider, parallel generation rider-renewable, and the net metering rider.

Other proposed changes include better definition of appropriately sized generation units and setting a 10-year limit for accounts to be on the net metering rider. There was also clarification made to each tariff to match K.S.A. 66-1184.

All riders can be reviewed on our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

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remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient

lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at Flint Hills REC, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

SAFETY TIP

When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines. Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 20 feet away at all times.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- ▶ Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- ▶ Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- ▶ Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

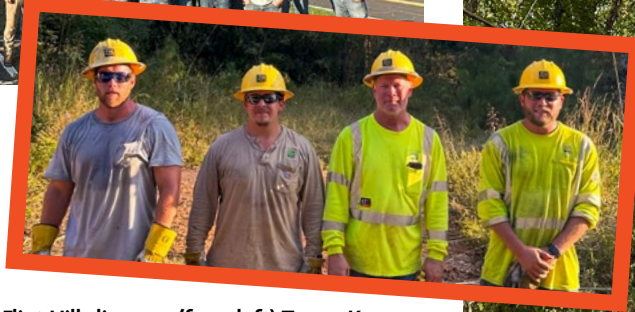
PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- ▶ Never leave unattended candles burning.
- ▶ Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- ▶ When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.



SOURCE: NRECA

Flint Hills REC Helps South Carolina With Hurricane Restoration Efforts



Flint Hills REC along with 14 Kansas electric cooperatives answered the call from Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina, to provide mutual aid assistance after Hurricane Helene left its service territory devastated and initially left 100,000-plus Aiken members without power.

More than 80 lineworkers from Kansas electric co-ops conveying with nearly 40 pieces of equipment — from bucket trucks to diggers to skid steers — left Kansas the morning of Oct. 3 to aid in Aiken’s power restoration efforts. Flint Hills REC sent four linemen **DYLAN JIRAK, TIM JIRAK, TREVOR KRUSE** and **DREW O’MARA** with three trucks to assist in the restoration efforts.

At the height of the storm, Aiken reported 92% of its system was off, leaving only a few thousand members with power. The damage was so severe, Aiken Electric Cooperative reported “it’s more than power restoration, but rather a complete system rebuild.”

The electric cooperative mutual aid model allows electric co-ops to help each other during times of need. This approach permits co-ops to “borrow”

Flint Hills linemen (from left) Trevor Kruse, Drew O’Mara, Tim Jirak and Dylan Jirak traveled to South Carolina to assist with restoration efforts.

restoration workers from other co-ops, thereby increasing the workforce response to areas impacted by a major outage event. It’s essentially about neighbors helping neighbors, even when those neighbors are fellow co-ops located hundreds of miles away.

Electric co-ops were formed to provide reliable electric service to our members at the lowest reasonable cost, and mutual aid has been a fundamental part of our DNA since co-ops were formed. The concept of mutual aid originated with the rural electrification efforts in the 1930s. From the very beginning, electric co-ops relied on each other to assist in times of need, and mutual aid provides an essential safety net in times of crisis.

KANSAS ELECTRIC CO-OPS WHO SENT CREWS AND EQUIPMENT:

- ▶ 4 Rivers, Lebo
- ▶ Bluestem, Clay Center and Wamego
- ▶ Butler, El Dorado
- ▶ Caney Valley, Cedar Vale
- ▶ DSO, Solomon
- ▶ Flint Hills, Council Grove and Hillsboro
- ▶ FreeState, McLouth and Topeka
- ▶ Heartland, Girard
- ▶ Lane-Scott, Dighton
- ▶ Nemaha-Marshall, Axtell
- ▶ Pioneer, Ulysses
- ▶ Southern Pioneer Electric Company, Medicine Lodge and Liberal
- ▶ Twin Valley, Altamont
- ▶ Victory, Dodge City
- ▶ Wheatland, Scott City



Stay Safe on Winter Roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, which create additional hazards for drivers.

Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared. Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, 24% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement.

Here are tips to help drivers stay safe on the roads this winter.

BEFORE THE WINTER STORM

Prepare ahead for cold temperatures, snow and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- ▶ Batteries are charged.
- ▶ Tires have sufficient tread.
- ▶ The spare tire is inflated.
- ▶ Jumper cables are in good condition.
- ▶ A winterized car emergency kit is on hand.
- ▶ Windshield wipers work.
- ▶ Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- ▶ Vehicle has at least a half tank of gas.

CREATE A CAR EMERGENCY KIT

Be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include:

- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Flares
- ▶ Ice scraper
- ▶ Portable shovel
- ▶ Sand or kitty litter for traction
- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Phone charger
- ▶ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ▶ Warm hat
- ▶ Non-perishable snacks
- ▶ Bottled water

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Observe the following precautions:

- ▶ Do not stay in one position for too long.
- ▶ Stay awake.
- ▶ Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- ▶ Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

DOWNED POWER LINES

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if necessary.

Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help. Don't!

Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety.

Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.

If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside your vehicle. Contact 911 to notify the utility immediately.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure power is safely restored. Have patience while linemen work in these adverse conditions to turn the power back on, and remember to observe safety precautions and be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

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

STAY SAFE on Winter Roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, creating hazards for drivers. It is important to be prepared in case there is an accident.

BEFORE A WINTER STORM

Perform vehicle seasonal maintenance to ensure:

- ▶ Batteries are charged.
- ▶ Tires have sufficient tread.
- ▶ Spare tire is inflated.
- ▶ Jumper cables are in good condition.
- ▶ A winterized car emergency kit is on hand.
- ▶ Windshield wipers work.
- ▶ Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- ▶ Vehicle has at least a half tank of gas.

PREVENT FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, observe the following precautions:

- ▶ Do not stay in one position for too long.
- ▶ Stay awake.
- ▶ Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- ▶ Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

