

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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FLINT HILLS RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?



Chuck Goeckel

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summer-time brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. Our region is known for harmful tornadoes and severe storms, often destroying everything in the storm's path. These potential weather events can also cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Flint Hills REC crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

SOURCE: NRECA



Sign Up for our Peak Alert Savings Program

Every year, Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative (Flint Hills REC) asks our consumer-members to help us save energy during the summer peak load days during July and August. At the end of August, the highest hour of usage in July and August is determined to be our summer peak hour. That one hour costs the co-op approximately \$115 per kW — that would be equivalent to you paying approximately over \$2,700 per gallon for gasoline. This is why we created the Peak Alert Savings Program.

Flint Hills REC asks our consumer-members to help us save and we will pass that savings on to you if you qualify. This is a voluntary program, and it will not cost you a thing to sign up. This is a win-win for everyone. Last summer, 700 consumer-members participated in this Peak Alert Savings Program, and Flint Hills REC returned over \$63,000 in rebates to qualifying consumer-members' accounts.

The Peak Alert Savings Program is in effect during July and August, only Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. This program is engaged on peak load days, which typically occur when the temperature is forecast to be above 95 degrees or higher.


Flint Hills REC offers a free notification service to let you know what days are considered peak load days. On these days, we will place a notice on our website, and we will send an email or text message to you. To receive these notifications, you will need to select this option through SmartHub or the SmartHub app. The credit will be based

Once you sign up, you are eligible to receive an energy credit by making a qualifying reduction of energy usage during our summer peak load hour.


on the actual peak hour regardless of whether a notification is sent.

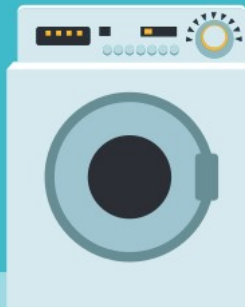
Once you sign up, you are eligible to receive an energy credit by making a qualifying reduction of energy usage during our summer peak load hour. These reductions could be as simple as moving everyday household chores to a different time of the day. For example, run major appliances, (e.g. dishwasher, oven, washer, and dryer) in the morning or later in the evening. One of the most helpful ways to cut back on usage during the peak load hour is to turn your thermostat up during the peak alert hours. You can do this manually or by using a programmable thermostat. The more you lower your usage during the peak load hour, the bigger the credit you could be eligible for.


To sign up for the Peak Alert Savings Program, please call our office or email us at mail@flinthillsrec.com. This program cannot be combined with any other load management offer. If you have questions about the program, you can visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com or call our office at 620-767-5144.



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Ways to beat the heat and save energy







1 Instead of cranking up the A/C, use ceiling fans (spinning counterclockwise) to make you feel cooler.

2 Delay heat-producing chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry until the evening hours.

3 Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day — especially for east- and west-facing windows.

SIGN UP TO **SAVE**

JOIN THE **PEAK ALERT SAVINGS PROGRAM**

Save on your bill when electricity demand is high.

Sign up for **PEAK ALERT SAVINGS** and receive an energy credit when you lower your energy usage during peak hours.*

The lower your usage, the **BIGGER THE CREDIT** you could be eligible for. The sign-up deadline is **JUNE 30, 2021**.

SIGN UP BY TODAY!

MEMBERSERVICES@FLINTHILLSREC.COM OR 620-767-5144

*Some program restrictions apply. Credit only valid for reductions in the months of July and August, from Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m. (excluding July 4). This program will be active on peak load days when alerts are sent to participating members. Visit www.flinthillsrec.com for a full list of program details.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- ▶ on the ground
- ▶ under storm debris
- ▶ draped over or touching a metal fence
- ▶ covered by standing water
- ▶ across or by the road
- ▶ hidden in tree branches

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- ▶ drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one)
- ▶ split or broken utility poles
- ▶ damage to a padmount transformer (green box)
- ▶ lightning strike to a substation transformer
- ▶ damaged or unstable guy wires

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 911 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

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- ▶ Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency

information, and check Flint Hills REC's SmartHub app or website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and download our SmartHub app to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Flint Hills REC, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

