



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

**SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**HEADQUARTERS**

P.O. Box 220  
1355 S. 383rd St. West  
Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131  
Fax: 316-542-3943

**FROM THE MANAGER**

# Stay Safe on Winter Roads



**Scott Ayres**

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

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APPLY FOR A  
**TRIP OF A  
LIFETIME**



**JUNE 14-20, 2025**  
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP  
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

### WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric cooperative.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM: NRECA-YOUTHTOURDC



APPLY  TODAY!

**JULY 11-17, 2025**

COOPERATIVE YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP CAMP



COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP  
MEMORIES

FIND OUT  
MORE



SPEAKERS  
DANCE  
RIVER RAFTING

TALENT SHOW  
EXPLORE  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

COORDINATED BY  TO APPLY, VISIT [WWW.SEGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP](http://WWW.SEGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP).

QUESTIONS CONTACT JO LUEHRS AT 316-542-3131,  
[JLUEHRS@SEGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP](mailto:JLUEHRS@SEGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP).

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# Membership Meeting Scheduled

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is notifying members of a special membership meeting on **NOV. 18, 2024, AT 6 P.M.** at the cooperative office, 1355 S. 383rd St. W. in Cheney, Kansas. The board of directors will consider and vote on changes to the electric rates.

The proposed changes are: a Fixed Charge/Minimum Monthly Rate increase from \$25 per month to \$35 per month for Residential Service Rates 1 and 2, and the General Service Rate 9.

The exact wording of modifications to the electric rate and proposed changes is posted at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

# Important Payment Date for November Bills

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, members who are signed up to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank account or credit/debit cards on the last Friday of the month, will have their November statement amount deducted on **DECEMBER 2, 2024**. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer at 316-542-3131 or [jkrehbiel@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](mailto:jkrehbiel@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

# Used Poles Available for Members

Due to recent storm activity Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has several used electric poles available. If you are needing any used poles, please contact Scott Leis at 316-542-3131 to schedule pole pick-up.



# NEW METERING SYSTEM UPDATE

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is in the process of upgrading the advance metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The current TWACS metering system has exceeded its life expectancy. The new metering system has advanced features that include instant outage detection, remote disconnect and reconnect, and data collection. Contractors will be assisting Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative with installing new meters and will have signs identifying them as Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative.



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Save energy while away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an “away” schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation setting, or you can simply lower the temperature manually. Small actions stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

**SOURCE: NRECA**



# Stay Safe on Winter Roads Continued from page 12A ▶

- ▶ 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 LINE

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 help 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 ensuring power is safely restored. Please have patience while linemen work in these adverse conditions to turn the power back on. Remember to observe safety precautions and be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

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

SOURCE: 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.

