



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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FROM THE MANAGER

Making Positive Impact on Community, Earth 'Cooperatively'

On April 22, we mark the 50th anniversary of the original Earth Day event that mobilized 20 million Americans and became a catalyst for individuals and businesses to rethink, reinvent and recycle for the benefit of people and our planet.

Cooperatives across the country have led the electric utility industry in actively expanding their fuel portfolios to include an array of renewable sources while educating their members-owners on best practices in reducing energy use.

Co-ops have been using clean, renewable hydropower for more than 75 years. In addition to the roughly 10 gigawatts of hydropower purchased from federally-run dams, co-ops have developed an additional 692 megawatts of hydropower with 724 co-ops in 43 states using hydro as a source of power.

Solar's flexible and scalable abilities have prompted co-ops to triple their solar capacity in the last three years. In Kansas alone, both generation and transmission cooperatives that supply power to the 27 distribution cooperatives including Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, have or will soon have solar included in their power supply mix. Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) began commercial operation of its Prairie Sky Solar Farm in 2017, and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, at press time, was nearing completion of the Johnson Corner Solar Project. In addition, several electric co-ops



Scott Ayres

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ANNUAL MEETING

POSTPONED

Our co-op's concern for community goes beyond involvement in community activities and the local economy. In an abundance of caution, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has decided to **POSTPONE** our annual meeting this year due to concerns regarding COVID-19.



10 REASONS WE APPRECIATE LINEWORKERS

Although we appreciate each and every co-op employee, it takes a special kind of person to be an electric lineworker. Here are the top 10 reasons we appreciate our lineworkers.

- 10 They are specially trained to work on power lines and related equipment.
- 9 They are dedicated to safely and efficiently restoring power following weather or outages.
- 8 They work overtime, many holidays and get up in the middle of the night to help restore power.
- 7 They enjoy serving our communities.
- 6 They aren't afraid of heights.
- 5 They help other electric co-ops with major outages at a moment's notice.
- 4 They lend their talents in many ways, including educating the public about electrical safety.
- 3 They have each other's backs.
- 2 They are trained to work safely on both dead and live power lines.
- 1 We couldn't provide excellent service without them or any of our other dedicated employees.

Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, along with other electric co-operatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women

who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our cooperative.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the



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many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is proud to honor the 11 lineworkers who maintain 1,175 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

Respect the Orange Signs and Cones

Many people say they can't find enough hours in the day to complete all their tasks. For that reason, they try to use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend or apply mascara.

Multitasking can be an effective use of time — but not while driving.

In 2017, 799 people died in work zone accidents, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries and deaths can happen in any roadside work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following work zone instructions — including moving over to give them space — anytime you see orange warning signs and cones leading up to a work zone.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground, but they can threaten workers in the air. Driving too fast or not moving over can endanger a lineworker elevated in a bucket truck by causing the bucket to move or sway.

Lineworkers already face enough hazards to contend with by working high up on power lines while battling the elements. Their profession consistently ranks on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' most dangerous jobs. Do your part — please don't add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

Other 2017 statistics released by U.S. DOT's FHWA show there were:

- ▶ 203 fatal crashes where speeding was a factor
 - ▶ 222 fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses
 - ▶ 132 worker fatalities in road construction sites
- Do us a favor, drive safely and undistracted.

Planning a Yard Project? Don't Just Dig In

April is National Safe Digging Month. It reminds us all that as we begin beautifying our yards, we shouldn't just dig in. According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 two to three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. The service is free and can help prevent costly repairs to underground wires later.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences.

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries and disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also make a dent in your wallet for repair

fees or other fines.

The 811 hotline points out that there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the U.S.

Before digging:

- ▶ Notify Kansas One-Call by calling 811 or making an online request 2-3 days before work begins.
- ▶ Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- ▶ Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.
- ▶ Dig Carefully around the marks with care. Remember that privately owned underground lines will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines serving a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

Making Positive Impact ... *Continued from page 16A* ▶

serving Kansans have invested in their own solar power.

A drive in either direction of the Sunflower State showcases the expansion of wind energy. In fact, since the beginning of 2008, wind generating capacity in Kansas has more than tripled, making Kansas one of the top five states in the nation. Nationally, wind development has surged in the last 10 years and is now second only to hydro in the co-op's renewable portfolio.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative also educates you, our member-owners, on ways to reduce your energy use, helping you help the environment. There are many ways we can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

Audit your lightbulbs. Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Maintain your HVAC system. Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently — keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Examine your smart or programmable thermostat. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

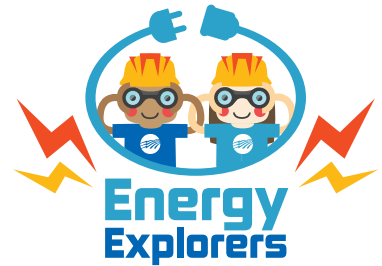
Seal windows and doors. Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community, the Sunflower State — and our beautiful planet.

LOOK OUT FOR POWER SOURCES

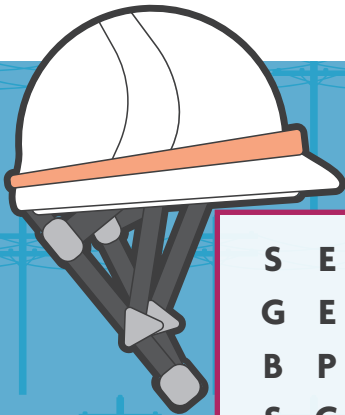


LINEWORKER GEAR WORD SEARCH



Did you know lineworkers wear special protective gear to keep them safe while working on power lines and other electrical equipment? Read the descriptions to learn about a lineworker's gear and find the bolded words in the puzzle below.

- ▶ **Safety goggles** keep debris away from lineworkers' eyes while on the job.
- ▶ **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.
- ▶ **Work boots** provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.
- ▶ **Flame-resistant** clothing keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.
- ▶ **Insulated gloves** protect lineworkers from electrical shock while working on power lines.
- ▶ **Equipment belts** hold several tools that lineworkers need to get the job done.



S	E	E	X	H	M	D	T	V	H	E	Z	N	P	S
G	E	A	A	U	H	J	N	P	G	I	E	V	T	H
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D	Y	A	O	X	T	O	E	P	C	Y	Y	H	R	T
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