



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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[www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)

**SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# currentnews

## Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

### Board of Directors

**Clint DeVore**

President

**Cindy Foster**

Vice President

**Margie Conyac**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Joe Baalman**

Director

**Donald Metzen**

Director

**Eugene Scheer**

Director

**Alan J. Smarsh**

Director

**Rex Smith**

Director

**Stan Theis**

Director

### Staff

**Scott Ayres**

General Manager/CEO

**Marcia Kampling**

Office Manager

**Kyle Pipkin**

Line Superintendent

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## FROM THE MANAGER

### We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?



**Scott Ayres**

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 Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative 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:

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.

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# 2020-2021 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

Although this year's annual meeting operated a bit differently than past years, we were pleased with the attendance of 382 members. On April 27, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative hosted a drive-thru style annual meeting at the cooperative's office, north of Cheney, Kansas.

Members drove through the cooperative's warehouse where they registered and received voting ballots, which included proposed bylaw changes, director elections and 2019 minutes for approval. Once ballots were collected members proceeded to the member services table where they received a cooperative rain gauge and a 60-watt LED lightbulb. Registered members received a \$25 bill credit on their May billing.

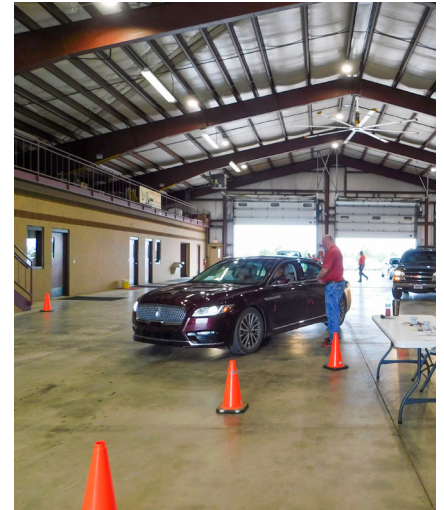
We would like to thank all the member-owners who drove out to support 2020-2021 drive-thru annual meeting.

**After Ballots Were Tallied, the Following Directors Were Reelected:**

- ▶ **TERRITORY 4** – DONALD METZEN
- ▶ **TERRITORY 5** – CLINT DEVORE
- ▶ **TERRITORY 6** – EUGENE SCHEER

**The Following Members Won a \$50 Bill Credit from KEPCo/KSI:**

- ▶ **PAUL M MENG**, Murdock
- ▶ **ANDY S LAUER**, Viola
- ▶ **JOHN G SCHMIDT TRUST**, Mount Hope
- ▶ **ELLIOTT & SONS INC**, Mount Hope
- ▶ **JOSEPH METZEN**, Goddard
- ▶ **JUSTIN M MORAN**, Kingman



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative hosted a drive-thru style annual meeting at the cooperative's office. Members drove through the cooperative's warehouse where they registered and received voting ballots, which included proposed bylaw changes, director elections and 2019 minutes for approval.





## Hill and Ayala Welcome New Additions

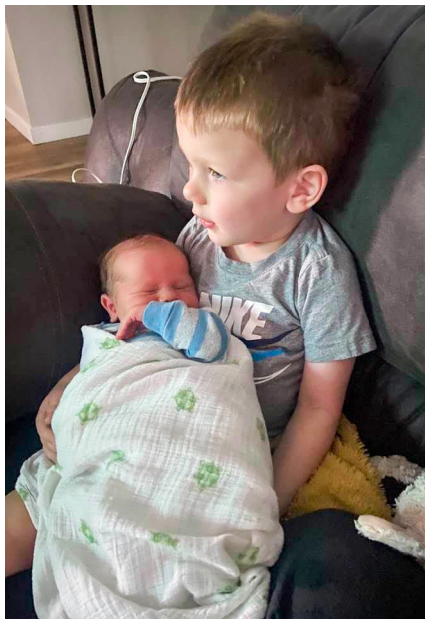
**TOMMY** and **MACI JO HILL** are the proud parents of another baby boy. Lawson Lee Hill was born on April 21 weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 ¼ inches long. Lawson is welcomed home by big brother Levi Thomas Hill.

Tommy is a journeyman lineman for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. Congratulations Tommy, Maci and big brother Levi.

**VICTOR** and **APRIL AYALA** are the proud parents of a baby girl. Daisy was born on April 8. Daisy weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Victor was hired the summer of 2017, for the summer internship position. He continued to gain cooperative experience and moved his way up from equipment operator/groundman to an apprentice lineman position.

Congratulations Victor and April on the wonderful new addition to the Ayala family.



Tommy and Maci Jo Hill are the proud parents of Lawson Lee Hill who was welcomed home by big brother Levi.



Victor and April Ayala are the proud parents of Daisy who was born on April 8.

## Tip of the Month: Before You Jump in, Learn about ESD

**Before taking the plunge, learn how electricity can seep into the water.**

Just what is electric shock drowning or ESD? ESD means that someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in water, usually from faulty wiring — a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or do not know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating or soaking in a hot tub. While we are not suggesting that stray electricity lurks in everybody of water, it is important to be aware that water can become electrified and electric shock drowning can occur.

Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat. Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- ▶ near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water).
- ▶ near a marina (never swim there).
- ▶ surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity.
- ▶ in a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors).
- ▶ in a wading pool, kiddie pool, lazy river or water amusement feature that uses electricity.

This is not an exhaustive list; in fact, electrical current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it (for example, a lighted fountain).

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly or tingly sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat, or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call 911, throw them a life ring or buoy, and, if you can, shut off the power source.

## Co-op Sponsors Pedal Tractor Pull

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will host the Pedal Tractor Pull at the Sedgwick County Fair on Saturday, July 10.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Sedgwick County Fairgrounds, just east of the open-air arena, and the pull begins at 10 a.m.

Children from ages 4 to 11 are eligible to participate.

There is no entry fee. Participants are required to wear shoes and must have a parent or legal guardian present to register. Top finishers will advance to the tractor pull event at the State Fair in Hutchinson.



## 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.



## Take Cover When Storm is Brewing

Sometimes a storm pops up or changes direction without any warning, while other times it is forecast days in advance and follows its predicted course. In either case, knowing what to do right before, during and after a storm can help keep you safe.

### When a Storm Hits

- ▶ Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower, or utility pole since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- ▶ Immediately vacate elevated areas such as hills and mountain ridges and peaks.
- ▶ Get away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- ▶ Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs!). (Approximately 5% of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the United States happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)
- ▶ Never lie flat on the ground.
- ▶ Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- ▶ Know the difference between a watch and a warning for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

### After the Storm

- ▶ Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires, or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- ▶ After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call 911, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- ▶ The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call 911 to report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving). If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.
- ▶ If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. (Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.)
- ▶ If the wiring, electrical system, or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

## We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You? *Continued from page 16A* ▶

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Facebook 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 warnings.

I hope we do not experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, 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.