

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Donald George
- ▶ Lorena Hinojosa
- ▶ H E Hartshorn
- ▶ Maday Ibanez
- ▶ Clayton Jarnagin
- ▶ Kirk Kissel

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Planned or Prescribed Burn Rule and Regulation

To protect infrastructure owned by CMS Electric Cooperative, including poles, equipment and power lines, from danger due to planned or prescribed pasture burns, the board has enacted Section 10, item B of the co-op rules and regulations effective March 27, 2023.

B. PLANNED OR PRESCRIBED BURNS AFFECTING PROPERTY OF CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

(1) To ensure that there is direct communication with members who are landowners regarding planned or prescribed burns of pasture or cropland for the purpose of protecting the property of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. when the planned burn area includes poles, equipment, and lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Further, to outline acceptable action by the landowner for the protection of such property of the electric cooperative, and to make it clear under what circumstances the member will be responsible for the costs of repair and replacement of damaged property of the electric cooperative.

(2) REQUIRED ACTION OF MEMBERS

Any member of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. who is an owner of land, or a tenant on land or adjacent to land that contains poles, equipment, and lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and further, when such Member intends to conduct a planned or prescribed burn on such land, such member or such member's agent or person conducting the burn shall proceed as follows:

(a) All regulations relating to prescribed burns as set forth in the Kansas Administrative Regulations setting for the rules and guidelines for prescribed burns applicable to Kansas must be followed. K.S.A. §28-19-64et seq.

(b) Within 24 hours of conducting such a planned burn

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Planned or Prescribed Burn Rule and Regulation

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of the surface of such land, contact the office of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. to inform the cooperative that such planned burn will take place and when and where it is intended to take place, specifically describing the legal description for the location of such burn.

(c) No more than one month prior to conducting such planned burn, the member or the member's agent or agents shall clear the surface debris and combustible dry growth to the surface of the ground around each utility pole of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the area to be cleared shall be 10 feet from the pole in all directions. This shall be done by burning the area described or by trimming weeds, raking, or scraping the ground so that there is no dry vegetation on the surface within the 10-foot area around each utility pole.

(d) After the most recent growing season and no more than six (6) months prior to said planned or prescribed burn, for pasture, weeds and grass, the area under the electric lines of the cooperative shall be mowed to a width that is at least 15 feet outside of the line or lines on each side of the extent possible.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY

(a) It is the responsibility of the member who is the landowner or tenant responsible for the planned burn to comply with the requirements set forth herein. Photographs shall be taken by the member or the member's agent in order to establish compliance, in the event of any concern that arises after the fire has been completed. In the event the above requirements have been

met, and proof of the same established to the satisfaction of the electric cooperative, and in the further event that there is damage to the poles, equipment or lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., then the electric cooperative shall stand the cost of repair or replacement to any damaged poles, equipment, or lines.

(b) In the event that the member chooses to not comply with this rule or has not complied with this rule and policy of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and in the further event that a planned or prescribed burn is conducted and there is damage to the poles, equipment or lines of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., then it shall be the member's responsibility and requirement to stand the cost of repair or replacement to any damaged poles, equipment, or lines.

(c) The measure of damages for a member who is responsible as set forth above shall be as set forth in *Kansas Power and Light Co. v Thatcher*, 797 P. 2nd 162, 14 Kan App 2d 613 (1990), which is the amount necessary to allow the electric cooperative to recover the cost of replacing or repairing the pole, equipment, or line, without deduction for depreciation, that was damaged by the member's actions.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE

This rule, 10 B, shall become effective upon the mailing of a complete copy of the same to all members, which may be done in connection with billing and/or by publication in *Kansas Country Living* Magazine. The mailing or publication shall occur after the date of the approval by the Board of Trustees of these Rules and Regulations.

Avoid Fines, Injuries and Power Outages

National Safe Digging Day, or 811 Day, is upon us. Easy to remember due to its 8/11 date, the day serves as a good reminder to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground. Having utilities marked is free and easy to do; simply call 811 two to three business days before starting your project. While state laws vary, utility companies generally have two to three days to respond to your request.

Why is it necessary to get buried utilities marked? Underground lines are unyielding, and their path is unpredictable. Digging in an unmarked yard can mean striking an underground utility line, which can cause serious injury. Damaging a utility line can also cause unwanted service disruptions, including a power outage, as well as a hefty fine.

"While it can be tempting to skip the important step of calling before you dig, it can be a costly and dangerous omission," says Erin Hollinshead, executive director of Safe Electricity. "Underground utility lines could be anywhere. They also shift over time and can be found just a few inches from the surface."

Every project, big or small, requires advance notification to 811. To start the underground utility marking process, call 811 or visit www.call811.com. Examples of projects that require utility location include installing a fence, a mailbox post, a deck or

patio, and planting trees and shrubs, among others. Any project that breaks ground requires that underground utilities be marked.

If a contractor is involved, check with that person to determine who will make the request. Locators do not mark private lines such as service to outbuildings, underground sprinkler systems or a gas lines to grills, for example. Private lines are the homeowner's responsibility.

BEFORE DIGGING IN, TAKE THESE FIVE STEPS TO SAFER DIGGING:

- 1 Pre-mark the proposed dig area with white paint or white flags.
- 2 Call 811 or submit your locate request online before you dig. There is no charge for the service.
- 3 Wait the required amount of time (typically two to three business days).
- 4 Respect the marks and do not move any flags.
- 5 Dig with care. Avoid digging on top of or within 18-24 inches on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your digging project to another part of your yard.


For more information about electrical safety, visit www.safeelectricity.org. For more information about 811, visit www.call811.com.




LABOR Day Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1.


Starting a new project?




1NOTIFY




2WAIT




3CONFIRM



4RESPECT



5DIG CAREFULLY



Follow these 5 STEPS for safe digging

NOTE 811 does not mark privately owned utility lines, invisible fences or sprinkler systems. Call a private utility locator for these.

Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before you plan to start your project.


Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.


Confirm all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.


Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration of your project.


If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers (within 24 inches on all sides according to Kansas law), consider moving your project.


WHAT DO ALL THE FLAGS MEAN?


Proposed Excavation


Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables


Alarm, signal or communication lines, cables or conduit

Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines

Temporary survey markings

Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials

Potable water

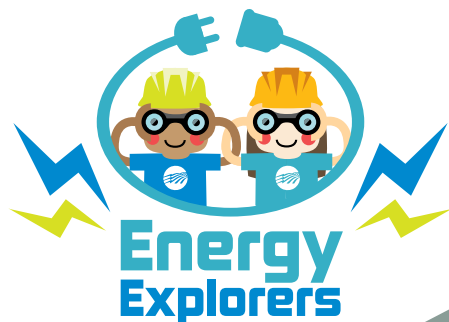
Sewers and drain lines

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HYDROPOWER Word Search

You know that it's never safe to mix water and electricity at home, but did you know that large amounts of flowing water can be used to create electricity? This process of generating electricity from the movement of water is called hydropower. Read the facts below, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle.



1 **WATER** flowing down a river is used to spin large **TURBINES** that help create hydroelectricity.

3 The amount of water used to generate hydropower is controlled through the use of large **DAMS**.

2 When the turbines spin, a large **GENERATOR** spins, which creates **ELECTRICITY**.

4 **HYDROPOWER** is a form of renewable energy.

J	R	E	E	R	Y	R	L	L	R	S	W	Z	M	H
N	E	B	G	L	O	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	O	R
V	T	R	C	T	E	P	U	N	N	F	L	U	D	V
R	A	I	M	L	Q	C	I	G	H	X	C	S	A	E
A	W	A	K	E	R	B	T	Y	V	W	D	L	M	P
K	B	Q	J	K	R	D	D	R	M	N	N	H	S	R
Q	Q	V	U	U	R	R	V	N	I	O	Y	O	R	K
N	G	Y	T	P	O	Z	L	Q	S	C	Y	E	R	Q
T	G	E	I	P	Z	S	M	X	X	Y	I	F	E	O
M	K	G	O	R	A	B	N	K	H	K	P	T	H	U
V	N	W	P	Q	L	Y	P	A	D	J	S	Z	Y	O
X	E	A	K	J	A	Z	T	Q	P	O	P	I	B	X
R	B	W	A	B	D	O	K	C	I	Q	C	T	K	O
S	Y	B	B	P	Y	S	D	O	F	D	H	B	R	D
W	X	E	D	W	U	G	N	V	H	D	Q	W	P	S