



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
P.O. Box 790, 509 E. Carthage, Meade, KS 67864
620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353
www.cmselectric.com

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Denise Gameros
- ▶ Ruth Grinstead
- ▶ Kevin Hageman
- ▶ Lloyd Harris
- ▶ Zackery Ellis
- ▶ Charlotte Filson

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

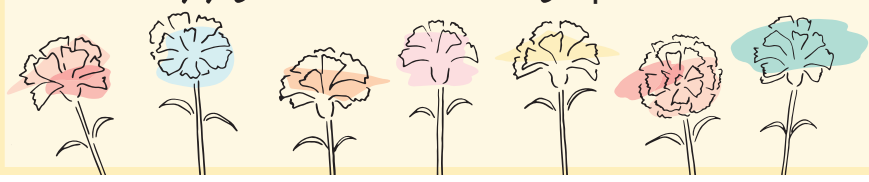
77th Annual Meeting

Join Us May 4 in Protection

The 2023 CMS Annual Meeting of the Members will be on Thursday, May 4, at South Central Elementary/Middle School gym in Protection, Kansas. There will be a delicious meal catered by John Ross for all cooperative members and their immediate family starting at 5:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Business will include reports on cooperative activities and the election of trustees. Valuable prizes and many energy credit certificates will be given away at the conclusion of the meeting. You must be present at the time of drawings to win. Please don't miss your annual meeting. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT!**



Happy Mother's Day | May 14, 2023





Create a defensible space around your home.

ZONE 0

- Clear roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways of debris.
- Clear wall exteriors of leaves and vines.
- Replace or repair loose or missing shingles.
- Trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Use metal mesh screening to protect eaves and vents.
- Relocate combustible items, including trash cans and vehicles, outside this zone.

ZONE 1

- Clear the ground of leaves and debris.
- Remove items stored underneath decks.
- Remove all dead grass, weeds and shrubs.
- Break up continuous vegetation.
- Create a separation between trees/shrubs and flammable items (e.g., swing set, patio furniture).
- Remove flammable materials such as wood piles or propane tanks.
- Clear vegetation from under large, stationary propane tanks.

ZONE 2

- Mow grass down to 4 inches maximum.
- For tall trees, remove lower tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove surface clutter, including leaves, needles, cones and bark.

How to Control a Controlled Burn

Controlled burns (also known as prescribed fires) can often get out of hand and quickly accelerate. When planning controlled burns, follow these safety tips:

- Do your research before you begin. There are many safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before implementing one.
- Be sure to acquire any necessary safety permits and follow any local ordinances related to controlled burns.
- Notify your local fire department and neighbors about the controlled burn ahead of time.
- Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (generally, relative humidity should be 40% or higher). Be sure to look at the forecast before and after your burning period. Embers can reignite if weather conditions are right in the days following a burn.
- Do not initiate a controlled burn during a Red Flag Warning, Fire Weather Watch or any other fire ban.

- Clear all vegetation and weeds at least 10 feet around the base of any electric utility pole in the affected area, then wet the base of the poles with water before beginning your burn.
- If your fire gets out of control, gets too close to a power pole or if the pole catches on fire, call 911 and CMS Electric Cooperative at 620-873-2184.
- Once a fire breaks out, never spray water near the pole, power lines or any other utility equipment.

After any controlled burn, be sure to inspect the electric utility poles for damage. Fire damage is usually evident by blackening or scorch marks; however, even slight discoloration can indicate a serious problem. Sometimes, the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact CMS Electric Cooperative at 620-873-2184.

For more information about electrical safety, go to www.SafeElectricity.org.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



GRASS AND BRUSH FIRES
can travel up to
15.5 MILES PER HOUR
and can spread to tens of
thousands of acres
within a few hours of ignition.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



CMS Enacts New 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 upon mailing of this publication.

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 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 weed-eating, 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.

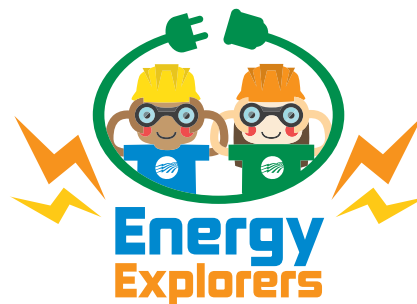
(c) The measure of damages for a member who is responsible as set forth above shall be as set forth in *Kansas Power and Light Co. v Thatcher*, 797 P. 2d 162, 14 Kan App 2d 613 (1990), which is the amount necessary to allow the electric cooperative to recover the cost of replacing or repairing the pole, 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.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

May is National Electrical Safety Month!
Take this quiz to test your safety skills.
Check your answers in the key below.



1. It's safe to plug in several devices to one electrical outlet as long as you use a power strip.

A. True B. False

2. Smoke alarms should be tested _____.

A. Every month B. Every other month C. Every six months

3. Extension cords are safe to use year-round if the cord is not frayed or damaged.

A. True B. False

4. When unplugging a device from an electrical outlet, always hold the _____ while unplugging.

A. Cord B. Plug C. Device

5. It's never safe to play near power lines, but it's OK to play near pad-mounted transformers (those big green boxes you see in neighborhoods).

A. True B. False

6. Where is the most dangerous place to use electricity?

A. Near other electrical equipment B. Outdoors C. Near water

Answer key: 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C