

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Yadira Ugarte
- ▶ Joyce Varnes
- ▶ Rita Bergkamp
- ▶ Erin Boggs
- ▶ Clint Petty
- ▶ Megan Snyder

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



### Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENTER TO WIN BY DEC. 20

## Willie Wiredhand Holiday Ornament

The 2022 Willie Wiredhand Commemorative Holiday Ornaments have arrived! CMS will hold a drawing for **FIVE ORNAMENTS**.

To be eligible for the drawing, please complete and return the entry form to the CMS office in Meade, either in person or mail to: CMS Electric Cooperative Inc. P.O. Box 790 Meade, KS 67864

Entries must be received by **5 P.M. ON DEC. 20, 2022**. Winners will receive the ornament in the mail.

### Willie Wiredhand Ornament Drawing

Clip and return to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864, by 5 p.m. on Dec. 20, 2022.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# CMS Electric Cooperative Flips the Switch

## Two 1 MW solar fields bring stabilized rates and clean energy to members

On Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, CMS Electric Cooperative celebrated the commissioning of two 1 MW solar projects in Coldwater. Power produced by the field will go directly to members of the co-op as reduced cost of electricity on their monthly bills.

In conjunction with the board meeting, CMS connected the array to the grid alongside Today's Power, Inc., the owners and operators of the system. This single axis tracking solar field is comprised of two 1 MW fields consisting of 7,000 panels in total.

"We relish the opportunity to provide renewable energy to cooperatives in all states," Derek Syson, TPI president, said. "Working with CMS Electric has allowed us to expand our reach and provide their members with the clean, sustainable energy they need."

Today's Power, Inc. of North Little Rock, Arkansas was selected by CMS as part of the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program, a TPI



Back row from left: CMS Linemen Justin Ellis, Logan Adams, Joe Ceballos, Clint Monroe, Dylan Bolton and Blake Atwood (not pictured Greg Bradley). Front row from left: Michael Bushnell, district manager; and Kirk Thompson, general manager.

Power Purchase Agreement with 14 Kansas co-ops, to provide the engineering, procurement construction operations and maintenance of the solar field.

CMS Electric General Manager Kirk Thompson said, "Investing in utility-scale solar is the most cost-effective way to benefit all consumer-members of the cooperative, while also investing in a green, clean, renewable source of generation right here in our own community."

Work on the solar field began in 2021 and was completed in May 2022, after all regulatory and engineering approvals were issued. For the length of the 25-year-or-more agreement, the cooperative will purchase electricity generated by the solar field at a fixed low cost. TPI owns and operates 100% of the solar array.



Back row from left: Derek Dyson, president Today's Power, Inc.; Justin Ellis, lineman; Logan Adams, lineman; Joe Ceballos, lineman; Michael Bushnell, district manager; Wes McKinney, trustee; and Chad McMillin, trustee. Front row from left: Bruce Woodson, Today's Power, Inc.; Ron Oliver, trustee; Linda Tomlinson, trustee; Danette Langford, administrative assistant; Mick Johnson, trustee; Kirk Thompson, general manager; Keith Randall, trustee; Gary Warden, trustee; and Don Nighswonger, trustee.



# Empower Children to Stay Safe Outdoors

According to the National Institutes of Health, electricity causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries in the United States each year, 20% of which occur in children. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

- ▶ Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call the electrical utility for help if a lost pet or toy finds its way into a substation.
- ▶ Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines, and if they see one, ask them to notify an adult. The utility company will send a professional to assist.
- ▶ Children should never play with, climb on or open pad-mounted transformers or outdoor electrical "green" boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box

**Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.**

that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact the utility.

- ▶ While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.
- ▶ Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed clap of thunder or lightning bolt to play outside.
- ▶ If enjoying the outdoors near water, such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.
- ▶ Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should only be used in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment.

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

## OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

### for kids

Share these **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS** with children and teens to help keep them safe.



- 1 DO NOT** climb or sit on green boxes or other electrical equipment.



- 2 STAY AWAY** from electrical equipment marked "keep out," "high voltage" or "danger."



- 3 NEVER ENTER** the fenced area around a substation to retrieve an item or pet.



- 4 FLY** kites, remote-control devices and drones **FAR AWAY** from overhead power lines.



**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the holiday.

STAY SAFE  
OUT ON THE

HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.



Always implement firearm safety techniques.

Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first-aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



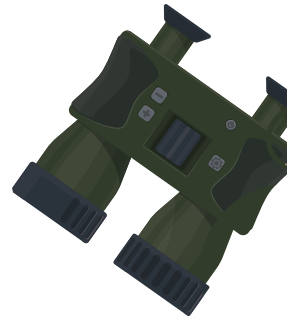
Check tree stands regularly for stability.



Be visible:  
Wear blaze orange.

# Hunting Kansas Safely

Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to



2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org).

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room. Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening conditions. Hunters may walk far distances while hunting and recovering an animal, which can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
- ▶ Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
- ▶ Know the hunting area. Check boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.
- ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
- ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize your surroundings or cause a fire.
- ▶ Wear blaze orange.

Hunters spend approximately **\$25,944,894** on Kansas hunting licenses of all types. And the total numbers of hunting licenses, tags, permits and stamps is over **468,000**, according to 2021 data compiled by [stacker.com](http://stacker.com).

