

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Charles Austin
- ▶ Geneva Darty
- ▶ John Doney
- ▶ Isidro Driedger
- ▶ Jose Estrada
- ▶ Celso Franco

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CMS Recognized for 963,687 Hours Without a Lost-Time Accident



CMS Electric has achieved 963,687 hours without a lost-time accident, a milestone made possible through a collective commitment to safety and accident prevention. **FRONT ROW:** Board members Todd Lewis, Don Nighswonger, Wes McKinney, Mick Johnson and Travis Apsley and General Manager Kirk Thompson. **SECOND ROW:** Shawn Drennan, Jason Martin, Logan Adams, Jared Weber, Blaise Saucedo, Mike Gillen, Steve Foster, Kevin Wiens, Andy Alexander and Lester Tacha. **THIRD ROW:** Michael Bushnell, Kaidin Upson, Shane Kitson, Dylan Bolton, Ethan Fast, Gabe Shireman, Jose Osornio-Rodriguez, Chayse Swinney and Justin Ellis.

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. was presented with a No-Lost Time accident award at the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Summer Meeting. The award was accepted by our board of directors and general manager in attendance.



General Manager Kirk Thompson with Board President Wes McKinney, presented the award to our employees at our safety meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2025. CMS Electric has gone 963,687 hours without a lost-time accident.

Thompson stated to employees that it takes a group effort in preventing accidents not just by the linemen but also by office staff and thanked everyone for their due diligence in staying safe.

General Manager Kirk Thompson (right) with Board President Wes McKinney, present CMS employees with a No-Lost-Time Award on Aug. 27, 2025.

Powered by Purpose

This month, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you — the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you — our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible — because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, cooperative crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Electric cooperatives provide power with purpose.

NATIONAL
CO-OP
MONTH

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, partnering with volunteer organizations or helping bring broadband to rural areas, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought — it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, we encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer — you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.

Don't Let an Electrical Mishap Be Your Halloween Trick

As you ready your yard and porch for Halloween, make sure the decorations you plug in do not become hazardous. To avoid a Halloween scare, take these safety precautions:

- ▶ Discard decorations with cracked or frayed cords or damaged plugs.
- ▶ Do not put decorations on power poles, pad-mounted transformers or other electrical equipment.
- ▶ Use decorations endorsed by a reputable testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- ▶ If you are using extension cords outdoors, make sure they are rated for outdoor use.
- ▶ Secure all cords so they do not become tripping hazards.
- ▶ Plug all cords into circuits protected by GFCIs to prevent electrical shock.
- ▶ Do not use nails or tacks to hang lights or other electrical decor.
- ▶ Keep decorations away from flammable items like bales of hay or cornstalks.

**HAVE A SAFE AND FESTIVE HALLOWEEN
COMPLETE WITH SAFE TRICKS AND TASTY TREATS.**

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Mutual Aid in the Electric Utility Industry and Why it Matters to You



From trimming trees to maintaining equipment to updating the grid — utilities work hard to reduce the likelihood of a power outage. But when severe weather strikes, power outages can disrupt daily life in an instant. That's when a powerful network of cooperation known as mutual aid springs into action — helping communities recover faster.

It's not unusual to see utility trucks from a dozen different states lined up in a parking lot in the aftermath of a major storm. These lineworkers leave their families and travel long distances to help strangers, working in tough conditions to restore power, safety and a sense of normalcy.

For residents, knowing that help is coming — from near and far — can be a source of comfort during difficult moments.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is a longstanding system of collaboration in which electric utilities help one another during major, multi-day outages to restore power quickly and safely.

Think of it like neighbors helping neighbors, but on a national scale. If a storm knocks out power in your area and your local crews can't reach everyone fast enough, utility companies from nearby states — or even across the country — may send lineworkers and other utility personnel, trucks and supplies to lend a hand. This support continues until everyone's power is restored.

HOW IT WORKS

Even with year-round preparation, major weather events can still cause widespread outages. That's when mutual aid is activated.

Mutual aid agreements are not spontaneous offers of help. They're part of a well-organized system that allows utilities to quickly request and receive help when disaster strikes, and most often used after:

- ▶ Hurricanes or tropical storms
- ▶ Ice storms or blizzards
- ▶ Tornado outbreaks
- ▶ Wildfires

- ▶ Earthquakes or other large-scale emergencies

When a utility anticipates a major weather event, it can prearrange support. Crews can be staged nearby and ready to respond as soon as conditions are safe. Once deployed, they help assess damage and replace poles and lines to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

WHY MUTUAL AID MATTERS

Mutual aid dramatically shortens the time it takes to restore power after a disaster. But mutual aid isn't just about speed — it's a powerful example of compassion, resilience and unity. It ensures that no matter a utility's size or location, customers can count on timely service during critical times, and entire communities can recover more quickly.

THANK YOU, LINEWORKERS

Mutual aid works because of the dedication, courage and selflessness of lineworkers nationwide.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the crews who answer the call — not just in their own communities, but wherever they are needed.

So the next time the lights go out, remember: You're not alone. There's a powerful team ready to help. In the utility world, mutual aid means everyone is part of the same family.

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date.

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

We appreciate your help in gathering this information.



NAME



ADDRESS



EMAIL



PHONE

CO-OP MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Read the following facts to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



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

FUN FACTS ABOUT CO-OPS:

- ▶ Co-ops and their members work **TOGETHER** toward a common goal.
- ▶ Co-ops are local organizations, so they understand the **COMMUNITIES** they serve.
- ▶ All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
- ▶ Concern for community is the seventh **COOPERATIVE** principle.
- ▶ Co-ops don't serve customers; instead, they serve **MEMBERS**.
- ▶ Co-ops are led by the **LOCAL** members they serve.