



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Max Carlson
- ▶ Ciro Chavez
- ▶ Lance Clay
- ▶ Maria Cox
- ▶ Angela Denney
- ▶ Sharon Fleming

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FROM THE MANAGER

Tree Trimming Improves Service for All



Kirk Thompson

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all

sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At CMS Electric, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).


While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a "right-of-way" is and how it may impact

you. A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, CMS Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power

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REMEMBER AND HONOR
MEMORIAL DAY

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 31, 2021, in observance of Memorial Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, June 1 at 8 a.m.



Happy Mother's Day

May 9, 2021

CMS ELECTRIC

75th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 13, at the Meade County Fairgrounds,
Building B, 613 W. Washington St., Meade

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There will be a delicious meal 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 the drawings to win.

Tree Trimming Improves Service for All Continued from page 16B ►

lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

We also want to ensure member safety by completing the tree trimming near power lines by using OSHA-certified tree trimmers. Trimming tree limbs near power lines is a dangerous job and has many hazards. We do not want our members attempting to trim any limbs near power lines.

Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and

clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

We also use data and our technology to maximize the efficiency of our operation. This includes our vegetation management plan.

Affordability

As you know, CMS Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

May is
National Electrical
Safety Month.



4 Ways to Avoid Overloaded Circuits

Label **circuit breakers** to understand the different circuits in your home.



Contact a qualified electrician to **inspect your home** if it's older than 40 years or before a major appliance is installed.



Have a **qualified electrician** install new circuits for high energy use devices.



Purchase **energy-efficient** appliances and lighting to reduce electrical load.