

**Substation Recertification Emphasizes Safety and Training p. 3**

## Web Site Map and iMap Alert Program Help When Severe Weather Strikes

### Outage Map

The weather in Oklahoma is always volatile, but no more so than in the spring.

Thunderstorms, lightning, strong winds, destructive tornadoes are all culprits when it comes to outages.

When you experience an outage, it would be helpful to know how extensive it is, and that progress is being made in restoring your service.

Recently implemented changes to the outage map feature on our Web site can help with that.

Randy Riddle, VVEC's manager of operations and technical services, says the map now indicates outages by town-

ship quadrants instead of zip codes, as it used to do.

"Now, areas experiencing an outage are shown as blocks on the map, and each block represents nine square miles," he explains. The color of the block indicates the number of outages in that area, and it changes as the situation improves and service is restored within that area.

He adds the map also indicates how

many services are in a particular area and how many of those are without electricity, so members will know how extensive the outage is. Information on the map is refreshed every 10 minutes.

Riddle explains specific locations affected by the outage are not indicated within the block to protect the property owner.

### iMap Alert Program

Having advance notice of severe weather can save lives. With the iMap Alert Program you can receive weather forecasts and severe weather alerts for

your specific area delivered to your E-mail in-box or to your cell phone.

The service is free.

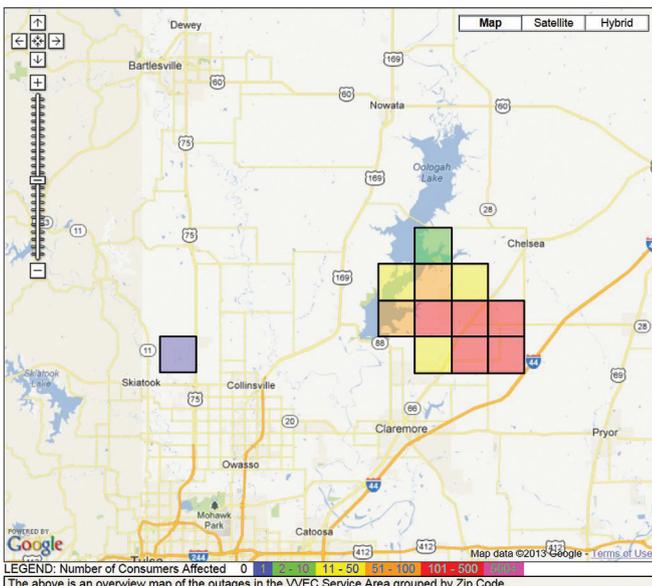
This service includes daily 7-day forecasts that are delivered to one E-mail address everyday before dawn. Also, you will receive emergency alerts from the National Weather Service via E-mail or text message, for your specific area, 24-hours a day.

Participating in this valuable service is quick and easy. Just visit our Web site - [www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com), and click on the iMapAlert icon in the lower left corner, then click on the icon at the top of the new page. You will be asked to complete the form on that page with your name, address, E-mail address or cell phone number, and the name of the co-op that serves you.

Also, there is an iMap Alert premium package that is ideal for members who travel frequently. Cost of this package is \$5.95 per month, and details are available on our Web site. 



**VVEC Current Outages**



Zip Code	Township Quadrants		
	# Out	# Served	% Out
SE24-16	3	8	37.5%
SW23-17	251	253	99.21%
SE23-16	226	232	97.41%
NW23-16	23	69	33.33%
NW22-13	1	239	0.42%
NE23-16	86	86	100%
SW23-16	58	59	98.31%
NW23-17	29	29	100%
SE23-17	171	173	98.84%
NW22-17	310	356	87.08%
NE22-17	150	312	48.08%
NE22-16	18	216	8.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>35196</b>	<b>3.77%</b>

## REPRESENTATION

### **VVEC Board of Trustees**

District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**  
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District 8 - **Ken Howard, 371-4833**  
District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134**  
or **272-5364**

**General Manager** - Alice Houston

### **VVEC Headquarters**

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### **Mailing address**

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### **Phone number**

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### **Office hours**

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday

**Editor** - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

## **Winter Residential Rates**

October through March usage,  
November through April billing

Customer Charge                      \$20.20

### **Energy Charge**

1st 1,000 kWh                      \$0.0738/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh                      \$0.0678/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.



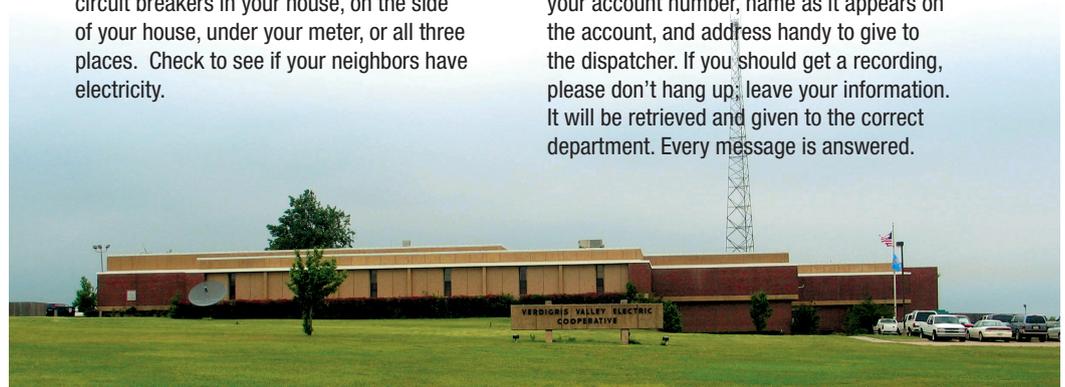
**K**elly and Benny Ammons, Bixby, (left to right) and Cari Ditty, Verdigris, visited the Green Country Electric Co-ops booth at the recent Tulsa Home & Garden Show, where they tried out the patio swing to be given away on the show's last day. The winner was a member of East Central Electric, headquartered in Okmulgee.

Several hundred people visited the booth and registered for the swing. According to those entries, more members of VVEC visited the booth than of any other Green Country Co-op!

In addition to registering for the giveaway, members could learn about the energy efficiency of CFL light bulbs and various types of insulation, along with visiting with co-op representatives.

## **What to do if Your Power Goes Off**

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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# Substation Recertification Emphasizes Safety, Equipment and Procedure Training

Safety is the first priority when working with electricity. No matter how experienced a lineman is, not being familiar with equipment and procedures can be the enemy.

That is why every two years our line personnel are required to renew their certification in KAMO substation operations.



*Dennis Greenwood (above), substation instructor for KAMO Power, discusses proper switching procedures as VVEC linemen (left) look on.*

*Two training sessions were held in March and all VVEC line personnel attended.*

Working with personnel from KAMO Electric Cooperative, at the Elm Creek substation east of Owasso, VVEC linemen reviewed all safety policies regarding entering, exiting and working within a substation.

Dennis Greenwood, KAMO's substation safety instructor, and several KAMO system operators, discussed the importance of communicating with the system operators while in the substation for the safety of the linemen in the substation and anyone working further on down the lines.

Greenwood also demonstrated equipment found in the substation as a review and refresher course.

"The purpose of this training is to familiarize our line personnel with KAMO equipment, since we work closely with KAMO to restore service during a substation outage," explains Randy Riddle, VVEC's manager of operations and technical services.

"KAMO doesn't have as many personnel in the field as the distribution co-ops like VVEC do. Or they may not be as close as our personnel are. So, it's not unusual for our linemen to be the first on site when responding to an outage. We need to be knowledgeable of the equipment and procedures so service can be restored quickly and safely," says Riddle.

He goes on to explain VVEC requires this training and certification of all line personnel.

"We want all our linemen to have the ability to work in a substation when the situation requires it," he says. "We want them to be able to help KAMO in switching and re-energizing lines, and opening and closing switches so power can be restored to our consumers in a timely manner." 

# Lending a Helping Hand

Fortunately, the blizzard that slammed into western Oklahoma in late February fizzled into a winter non-event by the time it reached Green Country.

Neighboring co-op, Kay Electric, headquartered in Blackwell, was hit hard, so VVEC sent 12 linemen to help. KEC serves more than 5,600 meters.

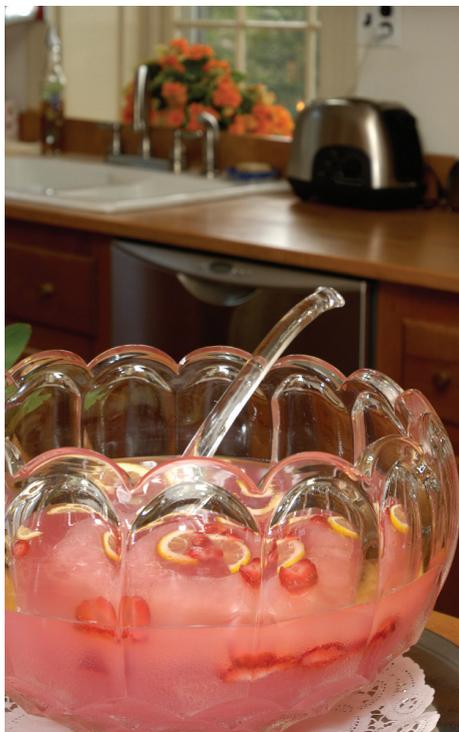
At the peak of the outage, about 4,300 KEC consumers were without



electric service, more than 550 utility poles were down, and more than 200 cross arms had to be replaced.

Some VVEC crews were there for about one week, while others were there about four days, and were part of a group of almost 100 linemen who were working to restore service. 

*Assisting KEC were (left to right) Nate Day, Josh Jackson, Daniel Cluck, Jake Gibbs, and Josh Merritt. Not pictured are Boyd Schultheiss, Logan Wells, Kyle Sears, Clint Tallant, Garrett Laughlin, Danny Lemke and Mike McClellan.*



## RECIPE

### Luscious Slush Punch

- 2 1/2 cups white sugar**
- 6 cups water**
- 2 (3-oz.) pkgs. strawberry flavored Jell-O® mix**
- 1 (46-oz.) can pineapple juice**
- 2/3 cup lemon juice**
- 1 qt. orange juice**
- 2 (2 liter) bottles lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage**

Bring the sugar, water, and strawberry flavored gelatin to a boil in a large saucepan; boil for 3 minutes. Stir in the pineapple juice, lemon juice, and orange juice. Divide mixture into 2 separate containers and freeze.

Combine the contents of 1 container with 1 bottle of the lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage in a punch bowl; stir until slushy. Repeat with remaining portions as needed.

**YIELD: 50 4-oz. servings.**