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No Mild Winter This Year!

Snow, Ice, and Brutal Temperatures Could Stick Around for Remainder of Season

We still have seven weeks until the first day of spring, but if those seven are anything like the weather we experienced in December and January, they could be long, uncomfortable and treacherous.

At VVEC we work throughout the year clearing right-of-way, and maintaining our lines, poles and equipment to lessen the impact severe winter weather can have on our system. So far, outages due to weather have not been widespread, but Mother Nature still has ample time to throw bad weather our way.

So it is always advisable to be prepared for an outage. Here is how to create a winter survival kit for your home to help you and your family survive the cold grasp of winter.

The Essentials:

•**Food:** Food that requires no cooking or refrigeration such as bread, crackers, cereal, canned foods, and dried fruits. Remember baby food and formula if you have young children.

•**Water:** In case water pipes freeze or rupture, keep a supply of tap water or purchase bottled water. The recommended amount of water to keep is 5 gallons per person.

•**Medicines:** Roads may be inaccessible for several days due to a winter storm. Make sure to order or refill any prescriptions that family members may need.

•**Identification:** Make sure to keep forms of identification with you such

as social security card, passport, photo ID, and driver's license. In addition, make sure to have bank account information and insurance policies.

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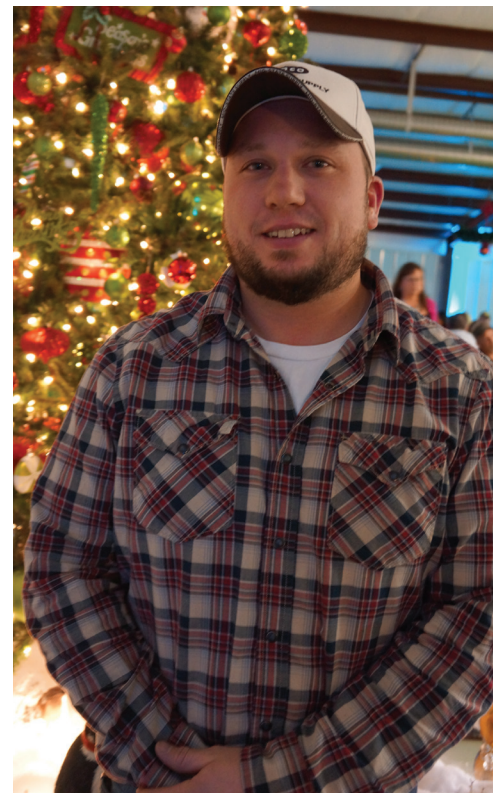
Chief Mechanic Named 2013 Employee of the Year

Chief Mechanic Collin Creech was voted 2013 Employee of the Year by his fellow co-workers. The result of the voting was announced at the annual employee Christmas party.

A graduate of Collinsville High School, Creech attended Tulsa Technology Center, and became a certified airplane mechanic. He came to work at VVEC in 2005 in the mechanic shop, and was named chief mechanic in 2008.

"Collin is a good employee. He goes above and beyond what is expected of him," says Creech's supervisor Terry Ishmael. "He keeps our fleet up and running and that's no small chore. Plus, he is just a good person. He's always willing to help out around here and to help his fellow employees both here at work or at his shop at home. He's just a good guy."

"It's something different every day," Creech says when talking about running the co-op's mechanic shop. "I'm glad to work with the people I work with here. It's a great place to work."



Collin Creech

Creech and his wife Bree are the parents of 7-month-old daughter JoLeigh.

VVEC Board of Trustees

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Monday through Friday

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Connie Quinton Retires After 12 Years

For Connie Quinton 2014 is not only a new year, but it brings a new chapter in her life. On Jan. 2, Connie retired from VVEC where she had been employed for more than 12 years.

Quinton was initially hired on a part-time basis at the electric cooperative in May 2001 and then accepted full-time employment as the switchboard operator in August 2001. She was the voice most VVEC members heard when they called the co-op for those years.

Her co-workers honored her with a luncheon and cake. Family and close friends joined the celebration.

“Connie has been a delight to work with,” says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. “We are certainly going to miss her, but we’re excited for her and want her to enjoy this new phase in her life.”



Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0738/kWh

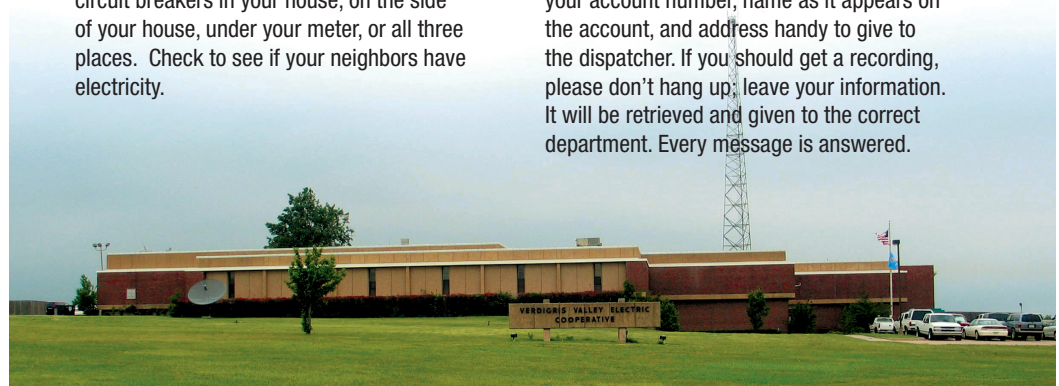
Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0678/kWh

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.

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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Service: That's What it's all About

During the annual employee Christmas party, we recognize those employees and trustees who have reached milestones in their career of providing service to the cooperative and its membership.

In 2013 we honored the following:

25 & 30 Years

Left to right - Don Hutchinson, Darrell White, Jeff Lorton, 30 years; and Roger Salisbury, 25 years.



10 & 15 Years

Front row, left to right - Kim Ford, 10 years; Johnna Jones and Robert Rouse, 15 years.

Back row - Mike Mattox, Josh Jackson, Ronn Badertscher, and Danny Bement, 15 years.



5 Years

Trustee Jimmy Lambert and Jane Van Sickle.

Also honored, but not pictured are:

5 Years -

Nathan Day and Thomas Martinez

10 Years -

Adam Prickett

20 Years -

Steve Riley

30 Years -

Brad Upton and Mike Dickey



Where can I Pay my Electric Bill?

In addition to paying your monthly electric bill by mail, online, over the phone or in person at our Collinsville office, you can also use one of eight PaySite™ kiosks located throughout our service territory.

Bartlesville:

Homeland Stores - 811 S.E. Frank Phillips Blvd. & 915 S. Madison Blvd.

Claremore:

5-Eleven - 1699 N. Lynn Riggs Blvd.

Collinsville:

VVEC office - 8901 E. 146th St. N.

Nowata:

Homeland Store - 813 E. Cherokee Ave.

Owasso:

Sunny's Kwik Stop - 11700 E. 86th St. N.

Tulsa:

Warehouse Market - 301 S. Lewis & 12920 E. 31st.

Skiatook:

Mister Bass - 4000 W. Rogers Blvd.

Other locations may indicate they accept utility payments, but these sites **have not** been authorized to accept payments for VVEC. We have no control over how or when those payments will be remitted to us, and your account will reflect an unpaid balance until we receive that payment.

No Mild Winter

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Emergency Materials:

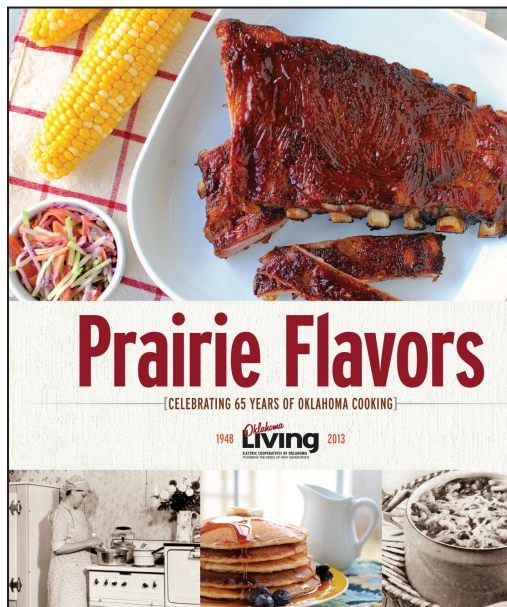
- Alternate methods to heat your home:
 - Dry firewood
 - Kerosene for a kerosene heater
 - Furnace fuel (coal, propane, oil)
 - Electric space heater with automatic shut-off switch and non-glowing elements
- Blankets
- Matches
- First Aid Kit and instruction manual
- Multi-purpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio, clock/watch
- Extra batteries
- Shovel
- Rock salt
- Non-electric can opener

RECIPE

Angela's Tamale Soup

- 32-oz. can beef broth**
- 16-oz. can pinto beans**
- 11-oz. can Mexicorn, drained**
- 15-oz. can yellow hominy, drained**
- 1 can diced tomatoes & green chilies, such as Rotel**
- 1 tsp. chili powder**
- 1 tsp. ground cumin**
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder**
- Salt & black pepper, to taste**
- 28-oz. can beef tamales**

Combine all ingredients, except tamales in a large pot. Cook over low heat until flavors are blended. Remove tamales from can, remove wrappers, and cut into 1-inch pieces. (This process is messy, but worth it.) Add the tamales to the soup and heat thoroughly. Serve with shredded cheese, sour cream, and chopped onions, if desired.



This recipe is from the *Prairie Flavors* cookbook published by Oklahoma Living. We have a very limited number in our Collinsville office for \$29.95 or you can order yours from Oklahoma Living, for an additional \$5 in postage.