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Ready to respond!

VVEC prepares for storm season

Here in Oklahoma, we can have severe storms any time of year. Tornadoes are the most devastating storms and cause the most damage in a generally confined area. Severe thunderstorms can cause a lot of the same type of damage that tornadoes cause (usually not quite as severe) but usually over a much larger area. Lightning associated with these storms can cause some pretty significant damage even when no strong wind is involved.

We have a comprehensive brush control program at VVEC. (Read more about it on Page 3.) We remove and trim trees year-round and do spot spraying during the summer. However, large trees out of the right-of-way can still tear a line down when large limbs blow out of them or when the entire tree blows over. Occasionally the wind alone is strong enough to cause issues with the lines and poles, even snapping the poles off.

When storms are forecast for the area we keep all our employees on alert and make contact with contractors to let them know we could be calling if the damage is significant. We try to stay as ready as possible for any event that may occur.

The most important things for our membership to remember are to report your outage—especially if you have power line damage on your property—and stay away from any downed power lines or poles. It helps our trouble shooting efforts if you see something that is not right and report it. But you must remember: just because a power line is on the ground and you are out of electricity doesn't mean that power line is de-energized. Remember to stay safe, stay

A VVEC line crew works to restore power after a severe storm. Photo by Randy Riddle



clear! Never approach a downed power line.

The best way to report your outage is through the SmartHub app on your phone or online through our website (www.vvec.com). It beats a congested phone line when several hundred or even thousand members are trying to report outages during a major event. ■



FOLLOW VVEC ON FACEBOOK



REPORT OUTAGES ON SMARTHUB

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA & SPAM
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- OATMEAL & CEREAL
- PASTA
- BEANS
- RICE



Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

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GRANT WINNERS

VVEC awards Adopt-A-School grants

Thirteen area schools submitted grant applications as part of the annual Adopt-A-School grant competition. Grants were awarded to eight schools:

Avant Public Schools; Claremore Catalayah Elementary; Claremore High School; Collinsville Upper Elementary; Diamond Point District 45 One Room School; Foyil Public Schools; Prue Public Schools; and South Coffeyville Schools.

The annual Adopt-A-School grant program enables area schools to enhance the student learning experience by investing in resources that might not be part of a school's budget. For more information on the Adopt-A-School grant program, visit <http://vvec.com/content/adopt-school-grant-program>. ■



Need assistance?

We encourage any member that has an outstanding balance due to the COVID-19 pandemic hardship to apply for help through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Go to www.okdhslive.org to determine household eligibility for the Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP).



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

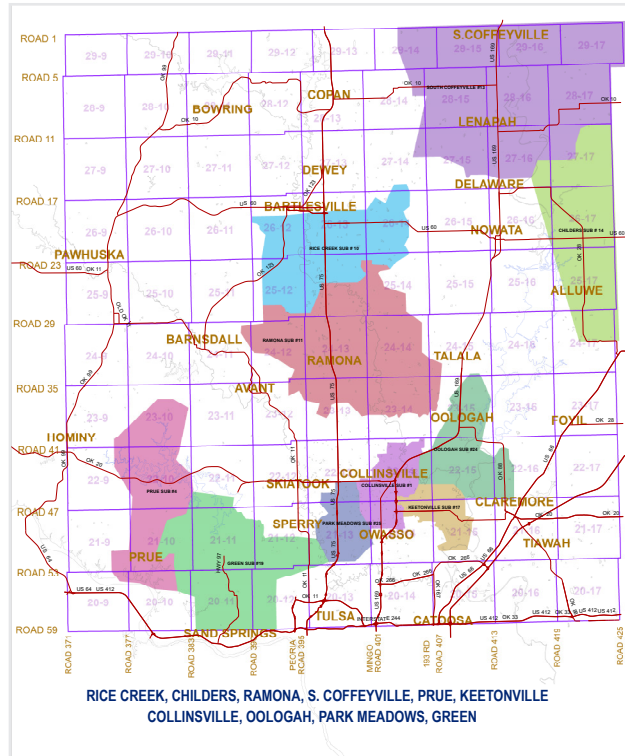
Keeping the lights on

VVEC's right-of-way maintenance program helps maintain safety zones around power lines, helps keep the power flowing

There are many ways VVEC provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common and crucial ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management). A right-of-way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. A general guideline to maintaining a safe ROW is a total of 30 feet of clearance (15 feet on either side) of a three-phase line and 20 feet (10 feet on either side) of a single-phase line. Maintaining a clear right-of-way is important to ensure there's an operational safety zone between power lines and any trees or vegetation making the area accessible in case a line crew needs to perform repairs or maintenance.

Spraying will take place in the shaded areas on the map to the right.

This summer, contract crews with Progressive Solutions will spray in the area of the Rice Creek, Childers, Ramona, South Coffeyville, Prue, Keetonville, Collinsville, Oologah and Park



This summer, contract crews with Progressive Solutions will spray in the area of the Rice Creek, Childers, Ramona, South Coffeyville, Prue, Keetonville, Collinsville, Oologah and Park Meadows substations. APEX will spray in the area of the Green substation.

Meadows substations. APEX will spray in the area of the Green substation.

The crews will walk the right of ways with 4-gallon backpack sprayers and low volume spray targeted to trees and brush. The spray is never broadcast with heavy equipment or high volume sprayers. The herbicide is EPA approved and safe for humans, pets, livestock, wildlife, fish and bees. ■

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd, in observance of Independence Day.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

- First, 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.

- Then, call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948. 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, leave your information; every message will be answered. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage, May through October billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh | \$.08272/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh | \$.08782/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

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FROSTED BANANA CAKE

SERVES 12

For the cake:

- 2 medium ripe bananas
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

For the frosting:

- 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

Peel, slice and mash bananas; set aside. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, sour cream and vanilla; blend well. Gradually stir in flour. Stir in bananas. Add baking soda and salt; mix well.

Pour batter into baking pan. Bake 20-25 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Let cool.

For the frosting: In large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and vanilla extract until fluffy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Mix until well combined. Frost cake. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Recipe courtesy of Culinary.net

OKIE EATS



Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Source: energy.gov



Frosted Banana Cake. Photo courtesy of Culinary.net