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Thank you for helping us weather the storm

Associated Electric Cooperative, VVEC's power supplier, is grateful for how members responded to February's historic low temperatures

In mid-February, the midsection of our country, from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, experienced one of the worst winter storms on record. The impacts—prolonged subzero temperatures, heavy snow and ice—were felt by Associated Electric, your power generator and your network of six transmission cooperatives and 51 distribution cooperatives that deliver your electricity. By keeping reliability of your electric service as the top priority, this cooperative network kept the power flowing and the lights on, even when many electric utilities all around us were forced to implement rolling blackouts.

What was the key? Associated Electric has maintained a balanced mix of generation sources. Energy is produced by coal, natural gas, hydropower and wind. The coal plants were the foundation for keeping the lights on. Natural gas and hydropower played important roles. Wind produced power at times but played a small role in producing energy during the peaks of the storm.

At one point during the worst of the storm, we asked you to conserve electricity. Associated Electric had activated its energy emergency plan, rarely used and only when member demand for energy approaches the limits of our supply. We were not surprised when our cooperative members responded quickly and decisively, lowering demand so that the electricity kept flowing for all. Thank you for demonstrating the best of the cooperative spirit. You made a difference.

This historically severe weather also means Associated Electric experienced cost increases to provide electricity to keep the lights on for members. Energy prices for natural gas, in high demand for home

heating as well as generating electricity, and the cost of power purchased from other utilities increased to record highs. While preserving reliability was our top priority, close behind was managing costs by using the least expensive electric generation sources available to us.

While the storm did have financial impacts on many parts of your cooperative network, the homes and businesses we serve did not experience rolling blackouts. Your February electric rates did not go up. The weather did cause you to use more electricity, so you most likely saw a higher electric bill from your distribution cooperative for February usage.

Finally, despite what you may see about some utilities, your cooperatives remain operationally and financially sound, capable of providing the same reliable and affordable electricity today as they did prior to the storm.

Thank you for your trust in us.

The Board of Directors,
Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. ■

Did you know?

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Springfield, Missouri, that generates the energy VVEC distributes to our members.



FOLLOW VVEC ON FACEBOOK



REPORT OUTAGES ON SMARTHUB

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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

LOCAL AGENCIES PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITY BILLS

There are a number of government agencies and charitable and religious organizations that offer assistance with utility bills; some of them are listed here. If you realize you may have difficulty paying your electric bill, please contact our consumer service representatives as soon as possible. We will make every effort to work with you to make payment arrangements and hopefully avoid interruption to your electric service.

ORGANIZATION	SERVES	PHONE NUMBER
SEAC	Avant, Sperry, Skiatook	396-1137
Community Action	Nowata County	273-2868
DHS	Nowata County	273-2327
DHS	Osage Count	287-5800
DHS	Rogers County	283-8300
Community Action	Rogers County	341-5000
DHS	Tulsa County	581-2689, 581-2401
Helping Hand	Tulsa County	584-6923
Salvation Army	Tulsa County	582-7201
Owasso Comm. Res.	Tulsa/Rogers Counties	272-4969
Community Action	Washington County	333-8115
Concern	Washington County	336-4693
DHS	Washington County	338-5700



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

SPRING STORMS



VVEC crews work to restore power after a spring storm causes outages. Photo by Randy Riddle

Spring storms wreak havoc on power lines

Spring is once again here, and with that comes spring storms. Here in Oklahoma, we can have thunderstorms any time of year. Spring, however, is associated with more numerous and usually stronger storms.

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. 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 be ready 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 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. ■

What to do in case of an outage

The best way to report an outage is through the SmartHub app on your phone or online through our website (www.vvec.com). Download the free SmartHub app on the App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play (Android devices) to report outages from your smartphone.

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC's office will be closed on Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial 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.

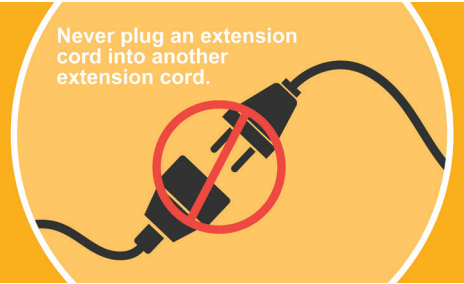
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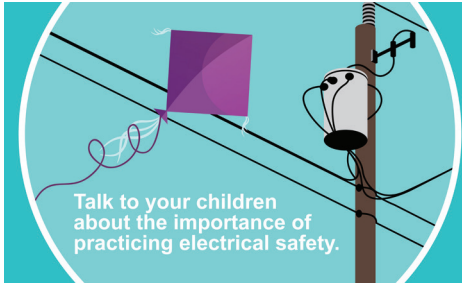
May is Electrical Safety Month

Follow these suggestions to help keep you and your loved ones safe!

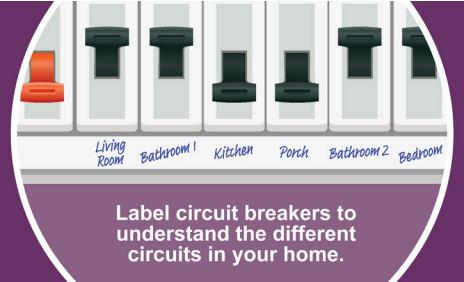
Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.



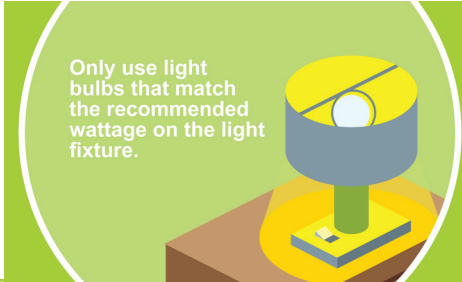
Talk to your children about the importance of practicing electrical safety.



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



Only use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the light fixture.



Okie Italian Pasta Salad | Serves 8

Recipe and photo courtesy of the Made in Oklahoma Coalition

- 1 (12-ounce) package Della Terra Fusilli pasta
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 tablespoons Scissortail Farms basil, chopped
- 1 small can sliced black olives, drained
- 4 slices Bar-S bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup mini pepperonis
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 8 ounces Lovera's Caciocavera cheese, cubed
- ¾ cup Diane's Legendary Italian Salad Dressing



Cook pasta to al dente, according to package directions. Drain and rinse. Place pasta in a large serving bowl. Add cucumber, onion, tomatoes, basil, olives, bacon, pepperoni and cheeses. Toss to combine. Add dressing, gently mixing. If making ahead of time, you may want to add a little more dressing closer to serving time to boost the flavor. Note: This salad is best made a few hours ahead of time, but it can also be served right away at room temperature.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source:
www.energy.gov

