



the COOPERATOR

MAY 2024 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living

Is your space electrically safe?

This Electrical Safety Month, take time to evaluate your home for hazards.

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering our devices and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Kay Electric Cooperative, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, and hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors


Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like

televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension Cords

With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from KEC, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Extension cords are designed for temporary use only.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs. 



All electrical devices—including surge protectors, GFCI outlets and extension cords—have a lifespan.



OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

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EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
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- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE


Rate Adjustment By Jason Boesch, CEO

Member billing in May will include the first rate increase in over 15 years at Kay Electric. This was detailed by the letter sent to our membership in early March. It does merit repeating the key factors driving the increase are from recent years of inflationary costs and market power prices—both factors being outside the control of Kay Electric. Regardless, we are always sensitive to the well-being of our cooperative membership as we are all in this together.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has announced forecasted average residential electricity prices this coming year to reach their highest level in almost three decades. This comes after the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported U.S. electricity prices increased by 3.6% during the past year, which is more than the general inflation rate itself. If you've been to the grocery store recently, you know that isn't good. The EIA said resi-



dential customers nationally are slated to pay over 16 cents/kWh.

Your board of directors, management, and employees remain committed to meeting your energy needs at the lowest possible cost while maintaining fiscal stability. This rate increase will allow Kay Electric to maintain the quality and reliability of your electric service. If you have questions about the rate adjustment, please call our office so we can answer your questions and even assist in finding effective ways to lower your energy costs where possible. 



Legislative Day at the Oklahoma Capitol

On March 12, more than 100 electric cooperative leaders visited the Oklahoma State Capitol, advocating for the cooperatives' mission of powering lives and empowering communities. Among them was Kay Electric CEO Jason Boesch.



Above: Student contest winners gathered at Kay Electric in February. Left: Winners of the junior contest included (front row from left): Jackson Weibling, Brylen Liberton, Natalie Newland and Zoe Sterling; (back row from left): KEC CEO Jason Boesch, Hannah Smith, Dustin Brotherton, Carter Barriger, Christian Walls and KEC Board President Max Hohmann. Right: Winners of the eighth-grade contest included (front from left): Kara Meyers, Emmalyn Grantz, Jacie Schneeberger and Brynn Liberton. They're pictured with Jason Boesch and Max Hohmann. 194904

CONGRATULATIONS!

Student contest winners

Kay Electric to sponsor educational summer trips for eight local students

Congratulations to the high school juniors and eighth-graders, recognized as part of Kay Electric's Annual youth contests!

In February, eight junior students were interviewed by three judges as part of the Youth Tour contest.


First place went to Jackson Weibling from Garber High School; second place went to Brylen Liberton from Ponca City High School. They were awarded an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on NRECA Youth Tour.

Third place went to Natalie Newland from Newland Home School and fourth place went to Zoe Sterling from Medford High School. They were awarded an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Fifth place went to Christian Walls of Deer Creek Lamont High School and sixth place went to Carter Barriger of Blackwell High School, both receiving a cash prize of \$300 dollars.

Seventh place went to Dustin Brotherton

of Billings High School and eighth place went to Hannah Smith of Medford High School, both receiving a cash prize of \$200 dollars.

Winners of the eighth-grade contest include Kara Meyers of Billings, Emmalyn Grantz of Garber, Jacie Schneeberger of Newkirk and Brynn Liberton of Ponca City. Each student will enjoy a four-day trip to Energy Camp in Hinton. 

GOOD COOKIN'

Red, White & Blue Trail Mix

Ingredients

- 3 cups graham cracker cereal
- 1 cup pretzels
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 package red, white & blue peanut M&Ms

Instructions

Add all of the ingredients to a bowl and mix together.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your electronic devices. With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you save energy and money!

Source: energystar.gov



\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

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