



the COOPERATOR

MAY 2023 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living

Dos and don'ts of portable generators

Ten reminders for safe generator use

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Safety is a year-round priority for Kay Electric; however this month we pause to remind ourselves, and our members, of the importance of electrical safety.

The arrival of spring also means storm season is upon us, which brings with it a greater potential for outages—and the need to utilize a portable generator.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 dos and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

DO: Install and test carbon monoxide alarms before using a generator.

DO: Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.

DO: Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow carbon monoxide to enter the home.

DO: Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.

DO: Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.

DON'T: Operate a generator inside your home or in an enclosed or partially enclosed space. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly.

DON'T: Open windows or doors while the generator is running.

DON'T: Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations.

DON'T: Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.


DON'T: Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electro-



**IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**

cute Kay Electric's lineworkers who are making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—and even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 800-535-1079 or learn more at www.kayelectric.coop/portable-generators. 



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 2,269 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.
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079
300 W. Doolin Ave. | PO Box 607
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Max Hohmann, President | Dist. 4
Verl Brorsen, Vice President | Dist. 9
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Jake Olsen | Dist. 1
Chad Otto | Dist. 2
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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.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

MEMBER REPRESENTATION



Jake Olsen



Chad Otto



Ron Shoffner

Members elect trustees for Districts 1, 2 and 3

In February, Kay Electric held district meetings for members in Districts 1, 2 and 3. Members voted to retain their respective board directors for another three-year term. Congratulations to District 1 Director Jake Olsen, District 2 Director Chad Otto, and District 3 Director Ron Shoffner! 🇺🇸



Electric cooperatives visit the Capitol

On March 20, Kay Electric board president Max Hohmann and vice president Verl Brorsen, attended OAEC's Legislative Day at the Capitol alongside more than 100 cooperative managers, employees and board members. Co-op representatives and legislators discussed potential bills that could impact the rural electric cooperative industry. Thank you Max and Verl for representing KEC! 🇺🇸

ESSAY WINNERS




Kay Electric recognizes essay contest winners

Congratulations to our 2023 Kay Electric student essay contest winners!

Judges selected eight winners in the junior essay contest. First- and second-place winners, Christian Widener of Blackwell and Carlene Johnson of Garber, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on the NRECA Youth Tour. Third- and fourth-place winners, Gracey Keller of Medford and Jessica Juhl of Medford will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for Leadership Camp. Fifth- and sixth-place winners, Skylar Anderson of Medford

and Cristin Cinnamon of Garber, each received a cash award of \$300. Seventh- and eighth-place winners, Kember Sloat of Garber and Davin Matthews of Blackwell, each received a cash award of \$200.

Eighth-grade essay contest winners include Lillie Lewer of Garber, Lyric Horn of Medford, Kenna Kilian of Medford, Kira Widener of Blackwell, Sydnee Benson of Garber and Nyla Evans of Garber. Students will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Energy Camp, held at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma. 

Top photo: Junior essay contest winners (front, from left): Skylar Anderson, Carlene Johnson, Gracey Keller and Jessica Juhl; (back, from left): KEC CEO Jason Boesch, Kember Sloat, Cristin Cinnamon, Christian Widener and KEC Board President Max Hohmann. Not pictured: Davin Matthews.

Bottom photo: Eighth-grade essay contest winners (from left): Lillie Lewer, Lyric Horn, Kenna Kilian and Kira Widener. Not pictured: Sydnee Benson and Nyla Evans.

GOOD COOKIN'



Lemon Sugar Cookies

Yields 2 dozen

Ingredients:

- 1 cup room-temperature butter
- 1 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 egg
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Instructions:

In a mixing bowl, beat the butter, 1 1/2 cups sugar, and lemon zest with an electric mixer for 1-2 minutes. Add the lemon juice and egg, and beat again to combine. Gradually add in the flour, baking soda and salt, mixing by hand with a spatula until combined. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30-60 minutes. Remove the dough from the fridge. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Place the remaining 1/4 cup sugar in a shallow bowl. Use a cookie scoop to form balls, rolling each ball in the sugar. Place the cookies 2 inches apart on a silicone-lined baking sheet. Bake for 11-13 minutes or until the edges have a faint golden color. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



GRACE VARGAS

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Since 2020, Grace Vargas has worked as a customer service representative at Kay Electric. She enjoys serving members and listening to stories of members who have been on KEC lines for a long time. Grace believes that positivity and kindness go a long way, and she says she always tries to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. Her proudest accomplishment? Her children. Grace was born in Blackwell and has raised her children, Jordan, 23, Samantha, 21, and Sofie, 14, in Blackwell. She adds that her parents inspire her, "They immigrated here to give us a better life and I am thankful for the opportunities I have had because of them." Outside of work, Grace enjoys reading, spending time outside, watching movies, and traveling to Mexico. Thank you, Grace, for your service!



ENJOYS
READING



LOVES TO TRAVEL
TO MEXICO



HAS THREE
CHILDREN

\$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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