

Lyon REC News



March 2017

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Managing Physical Threats to Grid Reliability

While the threat of cybersecurity attacks on the electric grid get a lot of attention these days, physical damage from storms or critters is much more likely to disrupt power. There are many physical threats to our power delivery system that your cooperative works hard to manage on a daily basis. From weather events (such as ice storms, tornadoes and flooding) to criminal activity (including copper theft and shooting at a substation), it takes proactive commitment to consistently deliver reliable service. Even something as small as a squirrel can damage infrastructure and cause outages.

If the lights do go out, we're ready to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. Here are three key ways that we work to keep your power as reliable as possible:

1. Being Part of the Community.

One of the most valuable things about being served by an electric cooperative is that you also have an ownership stake in the way the cooperative operates. Electric cooperatives know our communities. We live and work in the neighborhoods and towns we serve. You know many of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative's board members and employees. And, in turn, our board members and employees are personally acquainted with or are a part of or have been part of fire departments, county supervisors, EMTs, etc.

We know that emergencies can happen at any time, and these relationships are important in urgently responding to unplanned events or in preparing for more predictable events, including winter storms or summer flooding. For example, when a significant winter storm impacted almost every area of South Dakota over the Christmas holiday – leaving thousands without power – Iowa's electric cooperatives responded. That's because we're part of one large cooperative community and cooperation among cooperatives is an essential principle of providing reliable electric service.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative sent two line personnel and a large basket truck to Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Watertown, SD to assist in the restoration of electric service on December 27, 2016. The crew returned on the Friday of that week.

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REMINDER

**Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting is March 13, 2017**

The 78th Annual Meeting of the members of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Central Lyon High School, located on Greene Street in Rock Rapids at 7:15 p.m. on March 13, 2017. A meal will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. in the commons of the high school. Registration will begin at 5 p.m.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

2017 Youth Tour to Washington D.C. is coming soon. Contact your high school guidance counselor for more information.

Managing Physical Threats to Grid Reliability

2. Planning, Preparing and Practicing.

There is a well-known saying that it's not if a crisis will occur, but when it will occur. What constitutes a crisis can mean different things to member-owners, depending on the role electricity plays in their daily lives or businesses. We test our disaster and business continuity plans regularly and pride ourselves on being prepared at all times. Our plans not only focus on how to prevent threats, but also how to respond and recover in the event of an incident. Business activities, such as vegetation management or pole inspections, may seem routine; however, they are strategically performed to proactively reduce threats. Trees that are too close to power lines can cause major damage during a storm and may result in a lengthy outage.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has also replaced much of its system with underground lines. While this does not ensure that no outages will occur, it reduces many potential outages due to animal contacts, weather related issues, and contacts with large agriculture equipment. We increase our potential for outages from dig-in so we stress that if you are going to dig to call Iowa One Call using 811.

3. Coordinating with Stakeholders.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative places a high importance on partnerships with fellow cooperatives, our state and national electric cooperative associations, industry partners and government agencies to mitigate the potential impacts of all types of threats to our system. Electric cooperatives work closely with the rest of the electric industry, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on matters of critical infrastructure protection – including sharing needed information about potential threats and working together to avoid disruptions to the extent possible.

Although the grid is incredibly resilient and can withstand many physical impacts, it's also a dynamic infrastructure that requires constant attention. We are vigilant in ensuring we protect the grid from physical and cyber threats in order to power your lives!

Ways You Can Help

Report Suspicious Activity

We ask our member-owners to be mindful of unusual situations and to immediately report them to us or local authorities. For example, if you see non-cooperative personnel near a substation, that's noteworthy and should be reported. If you see something that doesn't seem right, we ask you to say something so that it can be investigated.

Check for Damage

If you have tree branches or other vegetation growing too closely to power lines or utility poles, please contact us so we can keep our lines clear in order to provide the most reliable service. If you come across damaged poles or equipment, please call our main number at (712) 472-2506 to report it.



Automatic Payment

Automatic withdrawal for payment of your electric bill is available.

Contact Lyon REC for details or go to our website for the form.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Ease into green with easy changes

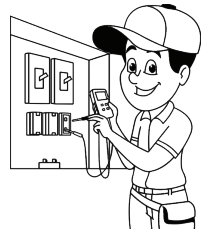


If you want to do your part for the environment by using less energy but you're afraid to make your home uncomfortable, make changes that nobody will notice.

Here are a few ways to conserve energy and reduce your carbon footprint that you might not have considered.

1. When you use your printer—at home or at work—print on both sides of the paper.
2. Invest in a single power strip to tuck behind your entertainment center. Plug your TV, DVD player, speakers and other electronics into it. Then, switch the power strip off every night before bedtime so none of those devices draws any electricity when not in use.
3. Wait until your dishwasher is full before running it. And stop washing dishes by hand: That uses up to twice the water and energy as the dishwasher.
4. Wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot. That could save you up to \$40 a year.
5. Lower your water heater's temperature by just 2 degrees. You won't notice the difference when you shower. But you will notice it on your energy bill.
6. Keep your freezer full. It takes more energy to cool an empty space than a full one.
7. Hang an outdoor clothesline. Pull nearly-dry clothes out of the washer and hang them; they don't need to go into the dryer. That will cut the number of dryer cycles you use.
8. Slide your refrigerator a couple of inches away from the wall. Pressing it up against a wall limits circulation behind it and makes the appliance work harder, which uses more energy.
9. Skip the hair dryer. You'll save energy by air-drying rather than blow drying. And your hair will be healthier, too.
10. Turn things off when you're not using them: lights, ceiling fans, space heaters, the TV, your computer—anything that's electric.

Hire the right electrician for the job



If you didn't buy your home new, or if it is more than 20 years old, you should have an electrician check your electrical system to be sure it can safely handle your family's growing electricity needs.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers tips for selecting the best electrician for the job.

- Look online for a directory of local electrical contractors.
- Ask the electrician to show you current insurance certificates for liability, property damage and workers' compensation.
- Choose an electrician who has a contractor's license from the state.
- Do not hire electricians who go door-to-door asking for work. Reputable companies don't need to do that.
- Call more than one electrical contractor for estimates so you can comparison shop.
- Ask the contractor for local references or check with the Better Business Bureau.
- Determine if the electrician is part of a national or regional electrical association. Membership doesn't guarantee a quality inspection, but associations offer educational programs to keep members up to date on technological advancements.

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My Check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

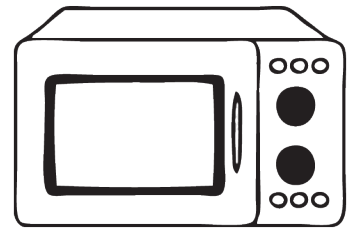
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to: RECare | Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 629 | Rock Rapids, IA 51246

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in weatherization of homes of low income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one-time contribution, or you may make a monthly contribution. Even one dollar a month contribution will help others.

DON'T RELY ON LUCK FOR SAFE MICROWAVE OVEN



Cooking in your microwave oven can save energy and money compared with using the stovetop or oven. And it's perfectly safe to heat up food or drinks in a microwave—as long as you're using it correctly and the appliance is in good shape.

But every now and then, you'll hear that someone got burned while heating something up. Don't let the next report be about someone in your family.

Here are a few tips to keep yourself and your family safe around this handy appliance:

- If the microwave door does not close securely and seal fully, don't use it. Call for a repair or, if your equipment is old, replace it. An unsealed door can allow microwave radiation to leak out of the oven.
- If the fan, light or turntable operates even when the door is open, do not use it.
- If a door hinge comes loose or falls off, repair it before you use the oven.
- If the door itself is bent, warped or damaged, don't use the device.
- Place food and liquids in microwave-safe containers before heating. Glass, ceramic and plastic containers labeled for microwave oven use are OK. Avoid placing metal pans and aluminum foil in the microwave. And some plastic can melt when you heat it.
- Don't overheat water. If you overheat plain water, it can explode—violently and without any warning. Some people have reported that the exploding water scalded their hands and face. A tip: Put instant coffee or sugar into the water before heating it to reduce the risk of an explosion.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions and cautions before using a microwave oven or any electric appliance.

JANUARY OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
KWH Purchased	11,492,465	11,454,566
KWH Sold	10,973,809	10,995,567
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	4.51%	4.01%
Total Demand	19,762 KW	20,371 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,197 KWH	3,102 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$287.69	\$292.09
Income Per Mile	\$1,003.68	\$1,135.88
Expenses Per Mile	\$991.92	\$1,106.55
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)...	5.39¢	5.96¢

Daylight Saving Begins
March 12, 2017

Spring Forward!



Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov."