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THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT
DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER

NEWS

FROM THE MANAGER

Reducing the Risk of Wildfires

May is National Wildfire Awareness Month

Gone are the days when wildfires were primarily confined to the western United States. Prolonged drought and shifting weather patterns are creating conditions in places that historically experienced few major fires. Today, more than 30 states, including Kansas, face elevated wildfire risk. The reality is clear: Wildfire risk is no longer regional — it is national.

At Butler Electric Cooperative, protecting our members and the communities we serve is our highest priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, I want you to know that wildfire preparedness is not seasonal work for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate.

One of the most important ways we work to reduce wildfire threats is through our vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, Butler Electric Cooperative crews — along with our trusted local contractors — trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is an effective tool for preventing fire ignition and maintaining reliable electricity.

Wildfire mitigation also requires thoughtful public policy. Managing electric infrastructure in and around public lands can present unique challenges. That is why we support practical, commonsense solutions such as the Fix Our Forest Act, which would streamline the ability for the electric cooperatives and other utilities to maintain power lines on federal lands and reduce hazardous “fuel” buildup. Policies that promote responsible land management are an essential part of a comprehensive wildfire prevention strategy.

Through membership in Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Kansas electric co-ops have a seat at the table of the Governor’s Wildfire Task Force. The task force was created in

the summer of 2022 to study, better prevent, respond to and recover from wildfires. The task force has provided an opportunity for state agencies, first responders, community leaders and utilities across the state to expand collaboration in mitigating wildfire threats.

With federal funds made available through the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program, KEC, as a sub-grantee of those funds, has coordinated its member co-ops’ efforts to harden their fire mitigation planning, mitigate potential future threats to the grid, and leverage resources across multiple electric co-ops.

While we are committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods.

Properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.

Of course, as much as we work to prevent wildfires, nobody can outsmart Mother Nature, and we cannot guarantee 100% prevention. Wildfires are becoming more complex and more widespread, but through proactive system management, sound policy and community partnership, we can reduce risks and strengthen resilience.

At Butler Electric Cooperative, we take this responsibility seriously. Our members depend on us not only for reliable power, but for leadership in safeguarding the communities we call home.



Kevin Brownlee

WILDFIRE ALERTS AND WARNINGS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Understanding alerts can help you know when to prepare and when conditions may become dangerous.

FIRE WEATHER ALERTS

RED FLAG WARNING:

Critical fire weather conditions are happening or about to happen.

FIRE WEATHER WATCH:

Conditions are dry, favorable for critical fire weather and could become dangerous.

NATIONAL WILDFIRE RISK LEVELS



LOW (GREEN): Fire starts are unlikely.

MODERATE (BLUE): Some wildfires may occur.

HIGH (YELLOW): Wildfires are likely.

VERY HIGH (ORANGE): Fires start easily and spread quickly, and are difficult to control.

EXTREME (RED): Fires start and spread rapidly. No outdoor burning should take place.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Thank You For Attending Our Annual Meeting!

Thank you to all of our members who joined us for this year's annual meeting. We had a wonderful turnout, and it was truly great to connect with so many of you. Events like this are a great reminder of what makes our cooperative strong — our members.

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to Misfit Kitchen for catering the meal and helping make the evening even more enjoyable.

2026 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

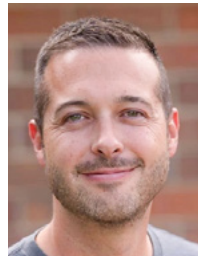
We are pleased to announce the results of this year's board of trustees election:

- ▶ **DEAN GOOD** — District 2 Trustee
- ▶ **VINCE ROTH** — District 5 Trustee

Please join us in congratulating Dean and Vince. We appreciate their willingness to serve and their commitment to our cooperative and community.



Dean Good



Vince Roth

HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

Follow these simple steps from roof to foundation to reduce wildfire risk.

- ▶ Clear leaves, pine needles and debris from roofs, gutters, decks and patios.
- ▶ Keep lawnmowers, oil or gas cans, propane tanks and wood piles at least 30 feet from your home.
- ▶ Install a metal gate or section if a wooden fence attaches to the house.
- ▶ Remove anything stored under decks or porches, and screen openings to prevent debris buildup.
- ▶ Remove flammable objects like lawn furniture.
- ▶ Swap mulch for gravel or stone near the home.
- ▶ Replace or repair loose or missing shingles and roof tiles.
- ▶ Install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening on vents for your attic, roof and eaves.
- ▶ Repair damaged or loose window screens and replace broken windows.
- ▶ Repair or maintain siding, trim and exterior joints so embers cannot lodge in gaps.
- ▶ Seal gaps and openings around the foundation and where utilities enter the home.

SOURCES: NFPA, SMOKEYBEAR.COM/HOME-SAFETY, WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



ALEX PINKERTON

STAKING ENGINEER/JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

10 Years



COLTEUR CARTER

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

6 Years

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



SARAH MADDEN

MEMBER SERVICES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Some people walk into a room and instantly make it better. **SARAH MADDEN** is one of those people. With nearly 27 years at Butler Electric Cooperative, she has become one of the cooperative's most trusted and beloved team members, and it's easy to see why. As the member services and public relations manager, Sarah brings a depth of knowledge that only comes with decades of dedication. Her understanding of the cooperative, its people, its processes, and its purpose is second to none, making her an invaluable resource for colleagues and leadership alike. What sets Sarah apart is her forward-thinking mindset. She doesn't just focus on what's in front of her; she's always anticipating what's next and finding ways to keep things moving in the right direction. It's a quality that has served Butler Electric Cooperative time and time again.

If there's one thing colleagues know about Sarah, it's that she will always show up when it matters. A perfect example is during storm outages, when linemen are working around the clock to restore power, Sarah is right there making sure they are fed and that visiting linemen from our sister cooperatives are taken care of as well. It's that kind of selfless, behind-the-scenes dedication that keeps the whole team going when it matters most. Sarah's positive attitude and uplifting spirit make her more than just a knowledgeable team member; she's a cornerstone of the cooperative's culture. After 27 years, her enthusiasm for the cooperative and the people in it hasn't wavered, and that energy is felt by everyone around her.

REMEMBER AND HONOR MEMORIAL DAY

We will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, May 25, 2026,
in observance of Memorial Day.



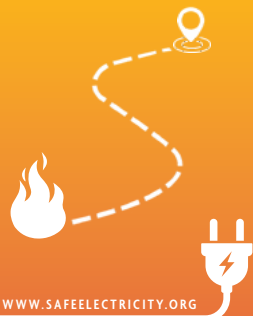
Happy Mother's Day

May 10, 2026



SAFETY TIP

When planning a controlled burn, stay far away from power poles and overhead lines. Even a well managed fire can damage a pole, sometimes from the inside out, creating serious electrical hazards. Keep suppression tools such as a shovel, water source or fire extinguisher nearby. Never burn during high winds or when wildfire warnings are in effect.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Small Change. Big Impact.

Operation Round-Up (ORU) is one of the simplest and most powerful ways our members give back to the community.

Through ORU, participating members allow their monthly electric bill to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. That small amount — usually just a few cents each month — is pooled together and used to support local nonprofits, community projects, and individuals in need.

While each individual contribution is small, the collective impact is significant. When hundreds or thousands of members participate, those pennies turn into meaningful support for causes that improve quality of life right here at home.

At its heart, ORU reflects the cooperative spirit of neighbors helping neighbors — something electric cooperatives have been built on for generations.

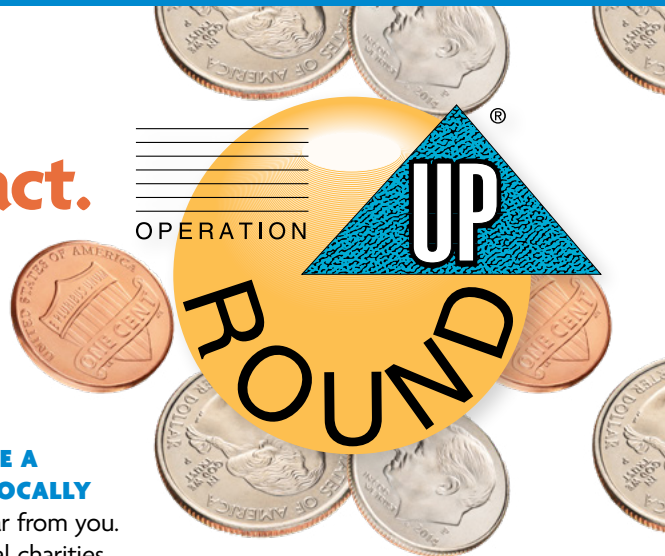
HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY

We want to hear from you.

Are there local charities, organizations, or causes in our community that you would love to see supported through ORU?

Scan the QR code or visit our website to share your suggestions. Your input helps guide where ORU funds go — ensuring we're making the greatest impact where it matters most.

Together, we can continue turning small change into big change for our community.



Scan to find out more or visit www.butler.coop/operation-round-up



We Want To Hear From You!

BUTLER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

is conducting a member satisfaction survey. Your feedback will help us improve our services to you and plan for the future. To take our survey, please visit this link

<https://survey.app.cfigroup.com/ahPs3c0SV2S8p3HQ/?Brand=Butler%20Electric%20Cooperative>

or scan the QR code

All responses are anonymous and confidential. Thanks for participating.

