



COMMON Ground

NEMAHA-MARSHALL ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSN., INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

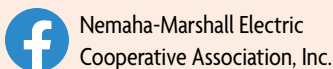
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	Patrick J. Holthaus Line Superintendent

CONTACT US

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 Axtell, KS 66403
 785-736-2345
 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
www.nemaha-marshall.coop



COINCIDENT PEAK

**MAY 14
AT HOUR
ENDING 5 P.M.**

FROM THE MANAGER

From Gardens to Grids: A Summer Snapshot

One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers market or sharing the abundance of garden produce with neighbors and friends. It's amazing that just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can reap a bountiful harvest.

With just a few simple actions you can also reap the rewards of energy savings. You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know plants need water — just like you don't need to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. As we move toward time-of-use billing, by shifting your energy

use to off-peak times, you have the power to save electricity and money.

One of my articles last year mentioned another of my favorite things about summer — sitting outside on my deck as the roar of thunder and the zig-zagging lightning indicated storms are nearby. In fact, I was approached by a member in the grocery store who was excited to share the same outdoor thrill of storms.



Kathleen O'Brien

Continued on page 12B ►

OUTAGES FOR MAY 2025

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred.

Date	Location	Substation	Number of Consumers	Outage Cause
April 23	32-5-08-12	Frankfort	1	Lightning Tripped Fuse
April 24	22-3-07-15	Marysville	6	Lightning Tripped Fuse
April 24	05-3-08-04	Marysville	7	Lightning Tripped Fuse
April 28	14-4-14-04	Goff	433	Evergy Substation Off
May 6	16-4-06-07	Marysville	14	Evergy Broken Pole
May 11	18-5-12-05	Centralia	2	Bad Transformer
May 18	32-5-08-12	Frankfort	1	Bad Transformer
May 18	12-3-12-08	Seneca	43	Fuse Tap Tripped
May 19	10-5-11-08	Centralia	1	Lightning Burned up 2 Transformers
May 24	16-6-12-01	Goff	2	Consumer Problem
May 25	26-3-13-03	Seneca	15	Squirrel Knocked Line Out

From Gardens to Grids: A Summer Snapshot Continued from page 12A ▶

Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential equipment throughout our service territory. Nemaha-Marshall Electric is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Nemaha-Marshall Electric is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and wires that run to your Meter pole, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters, meter loops and transformers.

Nemaha-Marshall Electric members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call an electrician to conduct the repairs. In addition, the member is responsible for locating any underground facilities beyond the meter pole.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before our crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Nemaha-Marshall Electric regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call us so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation between the meter pole and the house is the homeowner's responsibility. As time allows, we will trim those trees, but cleanup is up to the homeowner, who may need to call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

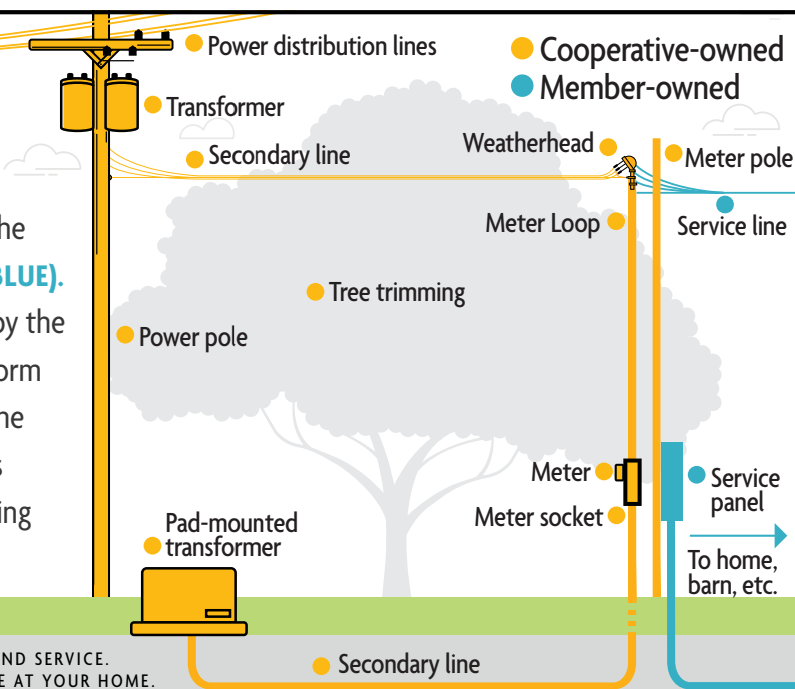
By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our communities. Due to the abundance of line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, and line rebuilding, our office staff and crews have been instructed to inform members that for any work past the meter, the member must hire an electrician. We will continue to hook wires up to our meter or transformer pole after the electrician has completed the consumer work.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we are here to help. Please contact Nemaha-Marshall Electric at 785-736-2345.

Who Owns What?

Electric Cooperative-Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the **CO-OP (IN YELLOW)** and the **MEMBER (IN BLUE)**. If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



NOTE: THIS GRAPHIC DEPICTS OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND SERVICE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF WHICH TYPE OF SERVICE YOU RECEIVE AT YOUR HOME.

Summer Grilling Safety

Grilling outdoors is not only a good way to keep your house cooler and lower your energy bill, it's a great way to enjoy warm summer days with family and friends — but more than half of grill fires occur during these peak months.

Each year, grill fires cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property loss, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most grill fires can be prevented with proper maintenance and safe use. Stay safe by following these simple tips:

- ▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from grates and trays.
- ▶ Place the grill on a stable surface, away from homes, deck railings and overhanging branches.
- ▶ Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
- ▶ Never leave an active grill unattended.
- ▶ Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only to prevent fire hazards and carbon monoxide poisoning.

GAS GRILLS

Gas grills pose a greater fire risk due to leaks. To ensure safe grilling, check for leaks each season:

- ▶ Mix equal parts dish soap and water.
- ▶ After attaching the gas cylinder, open the valve one turn counterclockwise.
- ▶ Apply the soapy mixture to the hose and connections. If bubbles form, a gas leak is present.

If you detect a leak, turn off the gas and grill immediately. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before use. If the leak continues, move away and call the fire department for assistance. Do not move the grill.

CHARCOAL GRILLING

Charcoal grilling is a favorite way to cook outdoors but poses fire and carbon monoxide risks if improperly handled. Follow these essential safety tips:

- ▶ Only use charcoal starter fluid designed for grills; never use gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- ▶ Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire — this causes flare-ups.
- ▶ Store starter fluid away from heat sources and out of children's reach.
- ▶ Let charcoal coals and ashes cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

ELECTRIC GRILLS

Electric grills are safe outdoors if proper safety precautions are followed:

- ▶ Ensure your electric grill is outdoor-rated to withstand exposure to moisture and varying temperatures.
 - ▶ Never use an electronic grill in rainy or wet conditions. Store the grill in a dry place when not in use.
 - ▶ Keep electrical connections away from water, damp surfaces, or pools to avoid electric shock.
 - ▶ Always plug your grill into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet to protect against shocks. If using an extension cord, make sure it's outdoor-rated and GFCI-protected.
 - ▶ Check the power cord for frays, cracks, or damage before use.
 - ▶ Turn off and unplug the grill after use.
- If your electric grill stops working, consult the manufacturer instead of attempting electrical repairs yourself.

CLEANING YOUR GRILL

Dirty grills are a leading cause of grill fires, according to the NFPA. Despite the belief that a seasoned grill enhances flavor, regular cleaning is essential for safety and performance:

- ▶ Let the grill cool before cleaning or storing it.
 - ▶ Clean all grill parts, including grates, burners, side tables and grease traps to prevent grease fires.
 - ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper cleaning.
- Take these precautions and enjoy a safe and flavorful grilling season.

LOVE THE OUTDOORS? BE SAFE OUT THERE.



Two-thirds of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities.



Do not use generators in enclosed areas. The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.



Pay attention to weather forecasts before you go canoeing or boating. Get off the open water as soon as you hear thunder.

Going for a hike? If you hear thunder or see lightning, do not seek shelter under a tree.




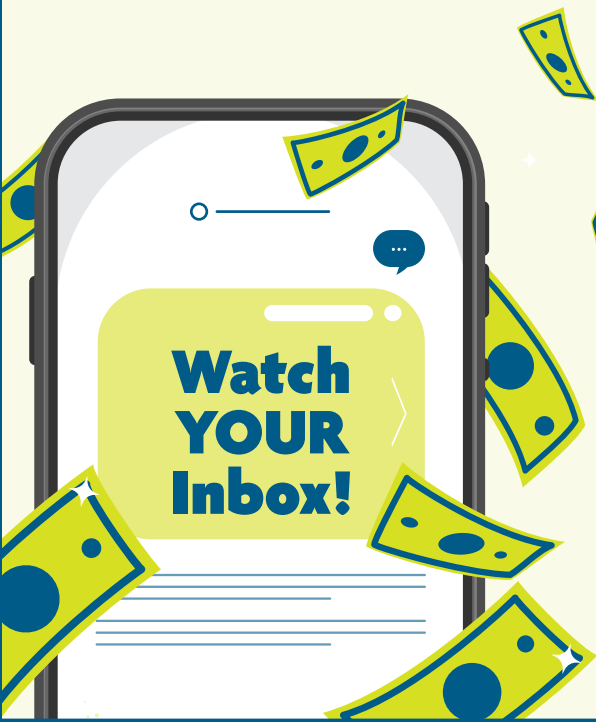
Look up for power lines while fishing or sailing. Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.



Tent camping? Plan ahead and seek shelter in a hardtop vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

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MEMBER MUST BE ENROLLED IN PAPERLESS BILLING FOR A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS, OTHERWISE THE CREDIT WILL BE ADJUSTED BACK TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

STAY COOL AND SAFE: BLEND UP A SUMMER SMOOTHIE

On a hot summer day, there's nothing more satisfying than sipping a cold, tropical smoothie. But before you plug in your blender and start whipping up that fruity refreshment, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind — especially in the kitchen where water and appliances mix. Here are some easy but essential electrical safety tips to help you enjoy your summer smoothie safely:

SAFE BLENDING TIPS FOR YOUR KITCHEN

- ▶ **DRY HANDS BEFORE PLUGGING IN:** Wet hands and electricity don't mix. Always make sure your hands are completely dry before plugging in or operating your blender.
- ▶ **SKIP THE POWER STRIP:** Plug high-wattage appliances like blenders directly into wall outlets to avoid overheating or tripping your power strip.
- ▶ **CHECK FOR GFCI OUTLETS:** Outlets near sinks or water sources should be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection to help prevent electrical shock.
- ▶ **INSPECT YOUR CORDS:** If your blender has a frayed, cracked or damaged cord or plug, it's time for a replacement. Using damaged appliances is a major safety risk.
- ▶ **AVOID OVERFILLING:** Don't fill your blender to the top. Overflowing ingredients can cause spills that may reach electrical parts and pose hazards.
- ▶ **UNPLUG BEFORE CLEANING:** Always unplug the blender before trying to remove stuck ingredients or before cleaning. It's a simple step that prevents unexpected starts or shocks.
- ▶ **KEEP THE BASE DRY:** Never submerge the blender base in water. Use a damp cloth to wipe it clean instead.

Whether you're blending up a quick breakfast or a poolside treat, following a few simple electrical safety tips can help prevent accidents and keep your summer safe and sweet.

TROPICAL SUMMER SMOOTHIE

Once your blending setup is safe, it's time to treat yourself! Try this tropical smoothie recipe — it's quick, easy and perfect for hot summer days.

- ▶ 1 cup frozen mango
- ▶ 1 banana
- ▶ ½ cup coconut water
- ▶ ½ cup Greek yogurt
- ▶ ½ cup pineapple chunks
- ▶ ice as needed

Add mango, banana, coconut water, yogurt, and pineapple to the blender. Blend until smooth. Add ice and blend again to your desired consistency. Pour into glasses and enjoy! Makes 2 servings.

