

Lyon REC News



APRIL 2021

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.

General Manager's Comments

February 2021 will be remembered as a month with strong weather pattern swings. The first and last part of the month were warmer than normal, and a polar vortex dominated the middle of the month.

February 2021 will also be remembered by those that experienced the rolling blackout on February 16, 2021. While all the details of why we had the rolling blackouts are not known at this time, I will try to explain what is known.

SPP (Southwestern Power Pool) is a RTO (Regional Transmission Organization) that serves an area from the Canadian border into part of Texas. SPP is responsible to make sure that generation of electricity is about 112% of the demand for electricity used by end consumers within the footprint of the area served by SPP. WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) sells the energy generated by the dams on the Missouri River, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, provides all the electric generation for Cooperatives in this area, are both members of SPP. WAPA is also the Transmission Operator for this area and is responsible to enact orders from SPP.

On February 15th, SPP issued an Energy Emergency Alert. These Energy Emergency Alerts range from Level 1 to Level 3. Level 1 indicates that SPP has electric generation to meet the current demand for electric energy and satisfy operating reserve requirements but still encourages end users to conserve. Level 2 indicates that SPP has electric generation to meet the current demand for electric energy, but operating reserve requirements are not being met and is urging users to conserve. Level 3 indicates that SPP needs to take action to reduce demand for electricity to avoid a cascading power failure of the electric grid. A cascading power failure of the grid is when one line or generator gets overloaded and fails the load is shifted to the next line or generator causing an overload and failure until the whole grid is shut down. Due to the polar vortex, SPP issued an Energy Emergency Alert, Level 3 for the first time on February 15th, with rolling outages. Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative did not experience the rolling outage on February 15th. On February 16th, SPP moved very quickly from a Level 1 to a Level 3 Alert and at 7:28 AM, WAPA opened a breaker in the Sioux Falls substation which feeds the four west substations of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative. This rolling blackout lasted for one hour and thirteen minutes. Fortunately, SPP's action ensured that electric grid did not fail.

We apologize to our members that experienced this outage. We are thankful that the grid did not fail, and that electric service was restored as quickly as possible. We are working to get better communications so we can notify our members prior to this happening again.

We thank our membership for their understanding as we work to find answers and develop solutions to lessen situations like this in the future.

HELLO SPRING

**Lineworker
Appreciation Day
April 12, 2021**
- Remember to
#ThankALineworker
on April 12

Left to right: Bryan Herum, Patrick Wubben,
Lance Van Der Weerd, Dustin Timmerman,
Tanner Church, Larry Wibben, and Ron Boogerd



HOW TO CLEAN SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES



It's not enough to sponge off your small kitchen appliances after each use. They need frequent, thorough cleaning to keep them operating efficiently-and for a long time.

Here are six tips for keeping your countertop appliances sparkling and working like new.

1. To clean most electrical kitchen gadgets, all you need is a bowl of warm, soapy water-liquid dish soap will do-and a sponge. Wipe off all outer surfaces, including motor casings and cords,
2. For dried or stuck-on grease and gunk, mix non-abrasive baking soda with a few drops of water into a paste and use that as a scrubbing solution.
3. Dry your appliances right away so water doesn't trickle into the electronic parts and so the outer shell of the appliance doesn't show watermarks-which can happen if you air-dry.
4. Never immerse cords, plugs or motors into water, and never load those parts into the dishwasher.
5. Use the top rack of the dishwasher to clean coffee pots, blender jars and other plastic or glass bowls that come with the appliances.
6. Avoid using spray chemicals to clean your appliances. Their residue can linger and touch your food. And some are harsh enough to dull surfaces.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov



FEBRUARY OPERATING STATISTICS

	2020	2021
KWH Purchased	10,646,232	10,641,664
KWH Sold	10,230,760	10,390,403
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	3.83%	3.34%
Total Demand	20,300 KW	20,722 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,874 KWH	2,991 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$264.26	\$282.69
Income Per Mile	\$1,027.62	\$1,068.95
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,083.63	\$1,075.76
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) . .	5.87¢	5.93¢

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Fogged-up windows? You've got a humidity problem

If you noticed condensation in the form of "fog" or frost on your home's windows over the winter, they probably won't do a good job of keeping the hot air out of your house this summer.

Condensation forms when moisture in the air touches a cold surface, like a windowpane. It causes the glass to "sweat" like a cold glass of iced tea on a hot day. Condensation can form on the glass and even pool on the windowsill. And like any excess moisture, it can eventually lead to mold and mildew. It also can damage your windows over time.

Before the weather warms up, replace any drafty, single-pane windows in your home. Choose double-pane versions that are more energy efficient. If that's not an option right now financially, install storm windows to add an extra layer of glass.

Then, take the following steps to tame the humidity inside your home.

1. Install ventilating fans in every bathroom, and turn them on before every shower. Let the fan run until the "fog" clears out of the bathroom, but no longer. Overuse of exhaust fans can send your home's comfy, air-conditioned or heated air right out of the house.
2. Use the hood fan over your stove when you cook. Cooking sends moisture into the air-along with lingering odors. The fan will rid your home of those smells and humidity. Again, run the fan just long enough to clear the air.
3. Vent your clothes dryer to the outside. Check the duct for leaks, especially at the point where it's attached to the dryer, and for obstructions that can prevent hot dryer air from escaping to the outdoors.
4. If you run humidifiers inside the home, don't overdo it. It's possible to add too much moisture to indoor air.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative values our members and their membership. Should you have concerns regarding your membership, electric service, or other issues, please contact Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative at 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 and our staff will be happy to assist you.

If your complaint is related to the Lyon REC service rather than its rates, and Lyon REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll free 1-877-565-4450, or by writing to: 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

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

Two-prong outlets aren't always safe

The new appliances you have purchased over the past decade or so probably came with three-prong plugs. But if you live in an old house, the wall outlets might have only two holes to accept the prongs.

That might mean you have three-prong adapters all over your house. The adapters have three holes so you can plug your newer appliances into them. On the other side they have two prongs so they will fit into your older wall outlets.

That's convenient, but it's not necessarily safe.

Consider hiring a licensed electrician to replace your two-prong outlets with upgraded, three-prong versions.

When you buy the replacement receptacles, choose models that include a ground-fault circuit interrupter. This will serve as a sort of "imitation" ground and can greatly eliminate the chance of an electric shock.

It's a good idea to use GFCI receptacles wherever you replace two-prong outlets in your house, but it's especially important in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and garage, where you use water and electricity in the same room.

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 12, 2021

Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 12

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 12, 2021, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to honor the 7 lineworkers that maintain around 900 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 12, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

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 RE-Care, 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.

Lint trap isn't the clothes dryer's only fire trap

If you scrape the lint out of your clothes dryer's lint trap after every load, you're doing a lot to prevent the appliance from catching on fire. But you could do more.

Here are five safety tips for keeping your dryer safe and energy-efficient:

- ▶ Are your clothes getting dry? Time the cycle. Is it taking an awfully long time for your laundry to dry? Are large items still damp when the machine turns itself off? This is a sign that your lint screen or exhaust duct is probably blocked.
- ▶ When is the last time you snaked your dryer vent? It's a pretty easy job, but if you're not a do-it-yourselfer, any handyman or electrician can do it-every year. The duct is the coil that sends the hot dryer air from the dryer to the outdoors. The vent is the hole where the hot air leaves the house. Both can get clogged with lint. Once that happens the dryer can overheat, send dirty, moist air back into your home, or even catch on fire. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.
- ▶ What's lurking behind your dryer? Pull it out and take a look. Lint can accumulate there and also underneath. Clean the floor behind the dryer and wipe down the back of the dryer. Call a service tech for this job if you can't manage it on your own.
- ▶ Is the exhaust vent sturdy? If it's made from plastic or foil, replace it with a rigid or corrugated, semi-rigid metal duct. Plastic and foil are too flexible and trap lint easily. They're also easier to crush, which will prevent air from flowing through to the vent.
- ▶ What's in your dryer? If you throw gasoline-, oil- or chemical-soiled clothes and towels into the dryer, even after thoroughly washing them, they can ignite. Dry them outside on a clothesline instead-after washing the several times. If your dryer is the only option, use the lowest setting, and remove the items the minute the cycle is finished. Even washed-and-dried clothes that have come into contact with volatile chemicals can ignite. Better: Consider the clothes ruined and safely dispose of them.

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Scholarship Winners:

Dalton Popkes – Ellsworth, MN
Jarrett Meyer – Rock Rapids, IA
Isaac Knobloch – Rock Rapids, IA

Springtime electrical checklist

It's almost time to throw open the windows and welcome warm spring weather. It's also time to invest in a few springtime upgrades that will keep your house more comfortable and help you do your part to use energy wisely.

Check off the following chores before it gets hot outside:

1. **Inspect and maintain.** Have a licensed HVAC tech come to your home to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying a little bit now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment.
2. **Clear and trim.** While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.
3. **Plant and shade.** While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.
4. **Replace and upgrade.** Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old windows.
5. **Clean and shine** Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.

WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 26-30

**PLEASE MOVE
OVER FOR
EMERGENCY
AND UTILITY
CREWS**

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



Non-Discrimination Statement

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.

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