

Lyon REC News



MAY 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.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Families should practice electrical safety all year round. Because May is National Electrical Safety Month, however, it's a good time to pay special attention to cleaning up electrical hazards around the home.

Here's how to start:

- * Call a licensed electrician to inspect your home's wiring. Wiring wears out just like everything else in the home, and when it does, it can pose a fire hazard.
- * Unplug appliances that you keep near water-like the hairdryer and curling iron on the bathroom sink. Find another outlet where it's safer to use them. And unplug them when you're not using them.
- * Replace light bulbs in lamps and overhead fixtures whose wattage does not match the manufacturer's recommended wattage. If a light bulb's wattage is higher than the lamp was designed to handle, it can overtax the lamp's wiring and cause a fire.
- * Unclutter power strips. Just because your power strip has room for eight plugs doesn't mean the outlet you plug it into can handle that high of a load. High-voltage devices, like hair dryers, toaster ovens and electric irons shouldn't go into the same power strip.
- * Put away extension cords. They are not designed for constant use. Use them only temporarily, like at Christmas time when you need a long cord for your tree, and then pack them up once the holidays are over.

Lyon Rural Electric
Cooperative
will be closed
Monday, May 31, 2021
in observance of
Memorial Day



Annual Meeting 2021

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting March 22, 2021. The annual meeting was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the meeting the only business discussed was the reading and approval from the minutes of the 2019 and 2020 Annual Meeting and the election results for District 6 and District At Large. The election results were David DeBoer will remain the director of District 6 and Rodney Mogler will remain Director At Large. The Board of Directors for 2021 are: Randy Mc Kenney (President), Randy Roemen (Vice-President), Rodney Mogler (Treasurer), David DeBoer (Secretary), David Huff, Nolan Kooiker, Jesse Roemen, David Griesse, and Damon Pedersen.



SUIT UP FOR OUTDOOR SPRING CHORES

You're used to strapping on a face mask every time you leave the house. This spring, double-down on your protective gear when you venture out into your yard for spring chores.

Operating lawnmowers, leaf blowers, saws, weed trimmers and other outdoor equipment is perfectly safe when your eyes, skin and hands are protected. But a simple spring cleanup can turn to tragedy in a second if you don't cover up before you plug in.

Basic protective gear includes goggles to cover your eyes, work gloves for your hands, and sturdy, waterproof boots.

In addition, cover your skin with a lightweight long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Protect your head with a helmet if you're working in an area with a lot of rocks or pebbles or climbing a ladder.

And if you're operating extra-loud equipment, especially for a prolonged period, plug your ears, too.



WISHING YOU A
Happy Mother's Day SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov

MARCH OPERATING STATISTICS

	2020	2021
KWH Purchased	9,966,287	9,169,716
KWH Sold	9,501,406	8,820,144
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	4.09%	3.48%
Total Demand	16,074 KW	16,022 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,596 KWH	2,327 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$247.20	\$237.26
Income Per Mile	\$976.84	\$946.38
Expenses Per Mile	\$963.28	\$988.25
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) . .	5.59¢	5.94¢

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 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.



SAY 'THANKS' TO MOM WITH ELECTRONICS THAT MAKE LIFE EASIER

This Mother's Day, skip the flowers and candy. Instead, give Mom a gift that will make her life a little easier. [Here are 10 ideas:](#)

- ① An emergency phone charger. This handy gadget is pre-charged and small enough to slip into a pocket or wallet for use if Mom's phone dies where there's no place to plug in.
- ② A rechargeable mini-light to clip in her purse. A motion-activated model will light up every time Mom opens her handbag or backpack to search for keys, lipstick or receipts.
- ③ A robotic vacuum cleaner. Moms generally are not thrilled to receive appliances as gifts on special occasions, but this one might change her mind. Wireless, rechargeable robot vacuums sweep the floors on their own so Mom doesn't have to lift a finger.
- ④ A fitness watch or wristband tracker. For anyone who's counting steps and wants to monitor heart rate and other health levels, a tracker that doubles as a watch-or straps onto the wrist like one-is a great convenience.
- ⑤ A keyboard for her iPad. If Mom works on the go, she probably has an iPad. Get her a keyboard and carrying case so she can convert it to a mini computer screen whenever she wants to.
- ⑥ A digital assistant. There are so many to choose from. These gadgets respond to voice commands and can look up answers to questions, turn on music and lights, and perform other tasks while Mom's hands are busy with other chores.
- ⑦ A phone mount for her car. Help Mom stay safe on the road with a mount that nestles into a cup holder or clips onto the dashboard's a/c vent.
- ⑧ A smart scale. These Bluetooth devices reveal more than weight. Mom can keep track of health metrics like BMI and hydration, and monitor her fitness goals.
- ⑨ A phone charger that disinfects. At a time when it's a good idea to sanitize just about everything, a charger that zaps bacteria in just a few minutes can save time and worry.
- ⑩ A Bluetooth-powered key finder. Mom can attach it to any item that she can't seem to keep track of and then use her phone to find it.

SPRING STORMS CAN BRING DOWN POWER LINES

It's not every day that a power line in your neighborhood falls to the ground. So most of us have very little experience when it comes to dealing with one when it does.

The best thing to do if you see a fallen electrical line: Stay far, far away from it.

A downed line can energize the ground as far away as 35 feet-and even farther when the ground is wet.

So never drive over one, pick it up or move it. Instead, call 911 and keep others away until the professionals arrive.

Any downed line could be live, which means it's dangerous. Steer clear of it-and teach your children to do the same.



Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.



HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR \$1,400?

Millions of Americans will qualify for another stimulus check from the federal government. What will you spend yours on?

A survey by USA Today revealed that most people plan to pay off loans and keep up with medical, childcare and energy bills. If you have any money left over after taking care of necessities, consider investing in energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment.

Replacing old electrical equipment can save money in the long run because newer models operate more efficiently, so they cost less energy to run.

You'll know it's time for a new furnace or air conditioning system if:

- ▶ Yours is more than 10 years old. After a decade of service, a new one is likely to be not only more energy efficient, but can help you reduce your carbon footprint. Newer refrigerants are not harmful to the environment as older ones are.
- ▶ Repairing a problem will cost more than half the cost of a new unit. Combine that expense with the likelihood that a decade-old device will break down again and again, and a new one looks like a good investment.
- ▶ Your energy bills are on the rise. Compare your electric bill from this month to the one you got exactly one year ago and then to the one you got two years ago. If your lifestyle and family's size are the same as they were back then but your energy costs are substantially higher, your HVAC equipment could be to blame.
- ▶ Your home is uncomfortable. If you have to keep inching the thermostat up during the winter to keep your home warm-or down in the summer to keep it cool enough-your equipment could be trying to tell you something. It could be time to buy a furnace or air conditioner that is the proper size for your home and features the latest energy-saving features.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME? TRY BLUE-LIGHT CANCELING GLASSES



If sheltering in place has made us good at anything, it's binge-watching.

Whether you're spending too much time watching TV and movies, scrolling through social media posts or playing video games, chances are good that your eyes are paying the price.

Screens-like the ones on your computers, TV and phone-emit blue light, which is the part of the visible light spectrum with the shortest wavelengths and the highest energy. Because we sit so close to our screens, that blue light can penetrate our eyes and harm them.

In fact, too much exposure to blue light can increase the risk of macular degeneration, an eye disease that can lead to permanent vision loss. The more screen time you log, the greater your risk.

One remedy: blue-light canceling glasses, even for people who do not wear prescription eyewear. The lenses filter out blue light.

Computer glasses, on the other hand, reduce eye strain while using digital devices. Constant computer use can cause your vision to blur, your eyes to get tired and your head to ache.

Both models are sold with prescription or non-prescription lenses.

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.



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.



Non-Discrimination Statement

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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.