

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839
Phone 620-397-5327

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE!!!

When calling Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative after regular business hours, Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC), a 24-hour customer contact center and central alarm monitoring station based out of Austin, Minnesota with a regional center in Dunlap, Tennessee, will answer your call. CRC, formed by 19 member electric cooperatives in the upper Midwest in 1992, serves 140+ members and customers nationwide, and is working as an extension of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative.

Using a combination of telephone and computer technology, CRC and Lane-Scott have established a seamless connection which enables a CRC Customer Service Representative (CSR) after hours to identify your account, answer your questions, pinpoint your outage, and if necessary, dispatch the appropriate line crew.

To place an inquiry or report an outage after regular business hours, call 620-397-5327 or 800-407-2217. You will hear, "Thank you for calling Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative." An available Customer Service Representative (CSR) will ask you basic information to verify and help locate your account to proceed with your after-hours needs. If you called to report an outage, after you receive confirmation your outage call is complete, the outage is then turned over to a dispatch team that will contact a line crew immediately.

During peak storms, you may be forwarded to an automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) call processing system where you will hear a series of recordings directing you to press your phone keypad to complete your outage call.

LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MAKES PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS EASY!

Lane-Scott's new **AUTOPAY** option allows the amount of your monthly electric bill to be automatically deducted from your bank account. There's no check to write, no payment to mail, no more forgetting to pay - and, best of all, **AUTOPAY WILL COST YOU NOTHING!** In fact, you will save money and time - no check writing costs, no postage expense, and more time for you!

For more information or to request an **AUTOPAY** authorization form, please call the co-op at (620) 397-5327 or 1-800-407-2217.

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Newsletter

Telephone 397-5327
Owned & Published by
The Lane-Scott Electric
Co-op, Inc.
P.O. Box 758
410 S. High St.
Dighton, KS 67839

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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

After Hours & Weekends Call:
1-800-407-2217

24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

1-800-407-2217

October Is Co-op Month

Cooperatives – Businesses People Trust

October is National Cooperative Month. Even though you are served by a cooperative, perhaps there are some things you do not know about cooperatives.

- ◆ Cooperatives are member-owned and democratically controlled enterprises, created and used by their member-owners to provide goods and services. A co-op operates for the benefit of its member-owners. Across America, 120 million people are finding solutions to community needs by forming cooperative businesses. This means cost savings, less risk and more choices for America's consumers and producers.

- ◆ Today, there are more than 48,000 cooperatives in the United States generating in excess of \$500 billion in economic activity.

- ◆ About 30% of farmers' products in the U.S. are marketed through cooperatives.

- ◆ More than 20 cooperatives have annual sales

in excess of \$1 billion, including Land O'Lakes, Inc., Ocean Spray and ACE Hardware.

- ◆ Credit unions have over 76 million members and assets in excess of \$100 billion.

- ◆ Electric cooperatives operate nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the U.S. and provide electricity for 34 million people – that's more than 1 in 10 Americans.

- ◆ There are approximately 1 million cooperative housing units serving households with a range of income levels and housing needs.

- ◆ Food cooperatives have been innovators in the marketplace in the areas of unit pricing, consumer protection and nutritional labeling.

- ◆ Retailer-owned food and hardware cooperatives make it possible for hundreds of independent store owners to successfully compete with large chains.

PLEASE -- No Attachments on Poles!

All too often our crews see garage sale signs or other signs tacked on our electric poles. We have also found clotheslines, fences, wires, etc., attached to our poles.

This creates a very hazardous situation for our linemen who must climb these poles. If a gaff on the lineman's hooks hits a metal nail or tack, it could cause him to fall and possibly severely injure himself. Nails and tacks can also cause a hole in the lineman's rubber gloves. Even a tiny pin hole in a lineman's rubber gloves makes the gloves totally ineffective and could cause the lineman to become electrocuted.

Safety codes also dictate that we cannot let you attach your own wiring system to cooperative poles. This does include electric fence wire.

You must realize that many times when our linemen are on outages, it is after dark and may be raining or snowing. It's hard to see what is on a pole and normally the truck spotlights are shining up at the top of the pole, not towards the bottom. When the linemen find the problem and get out to climb the pole, they can't see if there is a nail on the pole or not.

In view of these safety considerations, our staff will notify consumers of any unsafe attachments to our poles and ask that they be removed immediately. If you know of any unsafe attachments, please remove them immediately, instead of waiting to be contacted. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Electric Fencing Safety Tips

Never use electric fencing where it is likely to be touched by small children, especially near a swimming pool or dam where children may be on wet ground with bare feet. An electric fence energizer can deliver an unexpected shock that may be distressing to small children.

Never use any part of your household wiring or plumbing as an earth connection for your electric fence. Install a separate earth electrode at least 10 m away from household wiring and plumbing. Otherwise you may feel the electric

fence impulses when you touch metal plumbing fixtures or electrical equipment.

It's your responsibility to warn all persons of your electric fence. Australian Standard suggest that clear warning signs measuring at least 200mm x 100mm, should be placed at intervals of not less than 90m along any section of the fence where members of the public might reasonably be expected to touch it.

Beware!!!

If you are operating heavy equipment that contacts a power line, take these steps:

1. If you can do so safely, move the equipment away from the line.
2. Stay on the equipment until rescue workers say it's safe to get off.
3. Warn others away. Anyone on the ground who touches the equipment may be injured or killed.
4. Have someone call 911 and the local electric utility right away.

If fire or other danger forces you off, jump clear without touching the ground and the equipment at the same time. Take small shuffling steps, always keeping both feet on the ground. Or, hop away on two feet, keeping your feet together.

Please remember these simple rules. They may save your life.

KEEP THE DRYER CLEAN - AND SAFE

It's much more convenient and pleasant to dry laundry in a clothes dryer than to hang it outside in the cold winter months. But to keep yourself safe and prevent fire hazards, that dryer needs a little simple maintenance—primarily ensuring that lint isn't piling up in the exhaust system, where it can catch fire. To prevent these problems, you need to:



Clean the filter after each load of clothes. While the dryer is operating, check the outside exhaust to make sure exhaust air is escaping normally. If it isn't, turn the dryer off, look inside both ends of the duct for lint, and remove it.

If the dryer feels hotter than normal, this may be a sign that the temperature control thermostat needs servicing.

**Don't Forget
to Change
Your Clocks
October 27th**



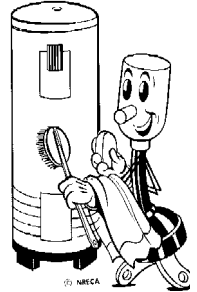
Fall Back An Hour In Fall

- ✓ CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE DETECTORS.
- ✓ HAVE A PROFESSIONAL CHECK YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY, DO NOT DELAY.

Replacing a Water Heater? Go Electric!

If you need to replace your water heater, consider installing an electric unit. Why? Because electric water heaters generally use less energy than fossil-fuel types. Natural gas-fired water heaters can not be insulated on the bottom, where the major heat exchange takes place between the gas flame and the metal tank. But electric heaters don't have that disadvantage. They can--and most are--fully insulated on the top, bottom and sides. That means they typically lose less heat when in standby, so that the energy you use to heat your water is used more efficiently and less of your water heating dollars are wasted.



Keep the Heat where You Need It with Space Heaters

If you heat with natural gas, oil or propane, you probably saw your energy bills go way up last year. Well, here's a solution to help you stay comfortable this winter and save money, too--portable electric space heaters.

With a portable electric heater--which you can buy for \$150 or less--you can heat the space you use without heating the entire house, saving energy and money. These heaters are extremely efficient because they lose no heat through ductwork. Newer heaters have many safety features that make them easy and safe to use in your home. And with the different types of heaters on the market today, you can find one to suit your needs perfectly.

This winter, you can lower that thermostat on your central heating system and still stay comfortable by supplementing your regular heating with electric space heaters. You can keep one in the room where you spend most of your time; another could warm up your bedroom before you go to bed. Just remember to read the instructions carefully, follow the manufacturer's usage directions and be extra-careful to abide by all safety precautions.

**October Is
Cooperative Month**

BE CAREFUL, HUNTERS! INSULATORS ARE DEADLY TARGETS

Shooting at glass or clay insulators that carry electric lines is extremely dangerous and can be fatal for the hunter as well. The interruption in electric service can also be dangerous for confined livestock that depend on electric ventilation and for folks on electric life-support systems. Besides, the insulators are expensive to replace, and the cost must be passed on to co-op members.



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Things You Can Do to Reduce the Energy Used to Dry Clothes

“Several cost-cutting measures can be used to save energy when drying clothes,” said Bruce Snead, extension specialist in residential energy at Kansas State University.

1. **Fill** the clothes dryer, but do not overload it.
2. **Sort** loads into heavy and lightweight items and dry them separately, with less time for the light items.
3. **Dry** heavy loads first, and dry multiple loads consecutively. This reduces the energy used to warm the dryer up to the appropriate temperature each time.
4. **Make** sure the lint screen is cleaned after each load. Lint impedes the air flow and causes the machine to use more energy.
5. **Check** the dryer exhaust regularly to be sure it is clean and not restricting air flow.
6. **Use** an automatic cycle to avoid over drying. Also, avoid drying only one or two items.

“Although it takes more personal energy, use the old-fashioned solar clothes dryer outside whenever possible,” Snead said.

**Have A Safe &
Happy Halloween!**



Why Insulation Is a Good Idea

Insulation may not be one of those things you spend much time thinking about. But its necessity makes it a very important element of your home. Here’s why:

“A good insulating material slows the flow of heat transferred in three ways: conduction, convection and radiation,” said Richard B. Hayter, director of Engineering Extension at Kansas State University.

Conduction is the transfer of heat through solid materials; **convection**, the transfer of heat through a gas, such as air; and **radiation**, the transfer of heat by electromagnetic waves requiring neither a gas nor a solid for movement.

“Typically, individuals think of a good insulator as one that reduces conduction,” Hayters said. “However, other transfer methods can play an important role.”

Most insulation such as cellulose, fiberglass and rigid foam used in housing relies on small (in some cases microscopic) dead air spaces within the insulation to slow the flow of heat.

However, other forms of insulation are becoming common in housing.

“Reflective insulations slow the flow of heat by reducing radiation,” said Hayter. “To be effective, the reflective side of both single- and multiple-layer reflective insulations must face an open, dead air space.”

When installed in contact with other building materials, reflective insulation will not slow the flow of heat.

What to Look for when Replacing Windows and Doors

Windows and doors are the most frequently used items in the exterior shell of your home, and their durability, energy efficiency and maintenance are all important concerns.

“In windows, look for tight construction with integral weatherstripping between sash and frame,” said Bruce Snead, extension specialist in residential energy at Kansas State University. “Replaceable weatherstripping is an advantage.”

Operating hardware should be durable. If the windows have steel or aluminum frames, check to see if thermal breaks are used to reduce the possibility of condensation.

“In Kansas, we recommend double-glazing or insulating glass with a low-emissivity coating,” Snead said.

Energy-efficiency ratings for windows include an air-infiltration rate and a U-value, which is equal to one divided by the R-value. These figures are based on laboratory tests of standard units and, in general, the lower the U-value and air-infiltration rate, the better the window.

“Be wary of advertisements using energy-saving claims without providing actual numbers based on standard test procedures,” Snead said.

For replacement doors, a good unit will come pre-hung for easy installation. They will also have integral weatherstripping at the head and jambs and adjustable weatherstripping at the sill.