



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**LANE-SCOTT
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Connections

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In Case of an Outage

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

Happy Holidays

Lane-Scott wishes our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices will be closed December 25 and January 1 in observance of the holiday.

FROM THE MANAGER

Have a Happy & Safe Holiday Season

As the holiday season approaches, I want to remind everyone of the importance of safety. Please help keep this season **merry** by putting **safety** at the top of your holiday list.

Not to dampen your spirit, but remember trees and lights are danger-prone holiday decorations. Christmas trees start an average of 260 house fires each season, resulting in property damage and personal injuries.

Unsafe practices while putting up decorations are to blame for thousands of injuries each year. Extension cords and ladders are the cause of over 6,000 emergency room visits.

Whether you have real or artificial trees, follow these guidelines when you decorate:

- ▶ Make sure your artificial tree is labeled fire resistant. Be aware that fire resistant does not mean fire proof.
- ▶ Make sure your live tree is fresh and green. Dry trees constitute a

Unsafe practices while putting up decorations are to blame for thousands of injuries each year.



Ed Wiltse

fire hazard.

- ▶ Water your tree frequently. Keep trees away from all heat sources such as fireplaces, vents or radiators.
- ▶ Make sure your lights are in top operating condition. Replace strands of lights that have broken or bare wires or broken bulbs.
- ▶ Do not overload electrical outlets. Most lights are designed to connect no more than three strands.
- ▶ Never leave your lights on when you are not home or leave them on overnight.

On behalf of all the Lane-Scott employees, I would like to wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and Holiday Season.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons—holiday parties, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Take little measures to help control costs like turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, swapping out lightbulbs for high-efficiency versions, and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Lane-Scott Teaches Safety at Schools

Lane-Scott had a busy month in October giving safety demonstrations to local schools.

On October 14, **DAL HAWKINSON**, journeyman lineman and **BOB VENTERS**, director of member services, gave three safety demonstrations

for Ms. Linenberger's fourth, fifth and sixth grade science classes at Dighton Grade School.

Lane-Scott went to Healy on October 15 for a demonstration during Ms. Deines' fifth and sixth grade science classes.

The following day Hawkinson and Venters traveled to Western Plains Grade School in Ransom for a demonstration in Ms. Walker's fourth and fifth grade science classes. That afternoon, they were at Sacred Heart Grade School in Ness City for Ms.



Dal Hawkinson (left) and Bob Venters gave safety demonstrations through the month of October.

Clouston's fourth, fifth and sixth grade science classes.

On October 17, they again presented at Western Plains Grade School in Bazine for Mr. Schulte's fourth and fifth grade science classes.

Hawkinson and Venters concluded demonstrations on October 18 at Ness City Grade School in Mr. Bamberger's sixth grade science class and Mr. Scott's fifth grade science class.

To bring our demonstration to your school, please call 620-397-5327.

Thank You Notes

Lane Scott Electric,

The Lane County 4-H Council would like to thank you for the new T-shirts

for our 4-H members. Your generous donation and support is greatly appreciated.

Tasha Root, 4-H Council Secretary



Lane Scott Electric,

Thank you so much for the great demonstration and safety rules. It was really great and the kids loved it! We so appreciate you taking the time to do this for our kids.

Tamie Linenberger

Lane Scott Electric,

Please thank those who took down the tattered flag at the museum.

Carolyn Thompson, President McCracken Historical Society

Call 811 for Free Utility Locating Service Available Nationwide

From planting trees, to building a deck or putting in a fence—outdoor projects enhance our outdoor living space. Some projects we can do ourselves and for others we call in the professionals. To help you stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

811 routes callers to a local utility locating service. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your utilities with flags or spray-paint. If you are in a rush to complete a project, a few days might seem like a long wait. However, a small waiting period can spare you an injury that could take years of recovery.

Tom Dickey learned the dangers of underground electricity years ago when he was on the job as an underground contractor. Dickey was asked to add a small task at the end of the work day—after his safety gear was already headed back to his shop in another truck. He made a decision that put time and efficiency above safety. He had one accidental slip and came in contact with lethal levels of electricity.

Fortunately, he survived, but even years later he lives with pain every day. "You may get by with it a thousand times, but at some

point it can happen to you. It can happen to anybody," said Dickey.

Electricity is not the only thing that lies underground. Gas, water, cable, and telephone lines all are buried beneath the earth. Not only are these utilities dangerous to make contact with, but people and businesses rely on these services.

Even if you had utilities located last year, it is best to have them located again. Underground utilities can shift and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

If you accidentally come in contact with an underground utility, do not bury the problem. Your first priority should be evacuating the area for safety, if necessary. If you nick an underground utility, notify your utility provider. Do not attempt to fix the problem yourself.

Lane-Scott urges you to start all outdoor digging projects the safe way—by calling 811 to have underground utilities marked. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

