

Connections



Trimming Future Problems

Trees can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds, storms, and heavy ice can topple trees or shatter branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. Sometimes, even if heavily damaged, lines remain energized with the potential to electrify trees and nearby

power lines and distribution equipment leads to 15 percent of power interruptions.

To "cut back" on potential tree-related problems South Central Electric operates an aggressive vegetation management program. Our line crews and contractors look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of "danger"

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Concerned about trees or branches too close to power lines? CALL US.

objects. At South Central Electric, we're committed to providing you with safe reliable power. There are some things we can't stop—high winds, ice storms, tornados—but we do what we can to prevent other outage culprits.

As you can probably guess, weather-related events cause the majority of power outages for an electric cooperative; a whopping 19 percent according to a survey by our national service organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. But vegetation (trees, shrubs, brush) growing too close to



We will inspect and trim trees that are a hazard to power lines. We have tree trimming contractors working in our area now through February.

Holiday Greetings from South Central Electric Association!
 The South Central Electric Directors and Employees wish all our members a joyous and safe Holiday Season.

Construction Under Way

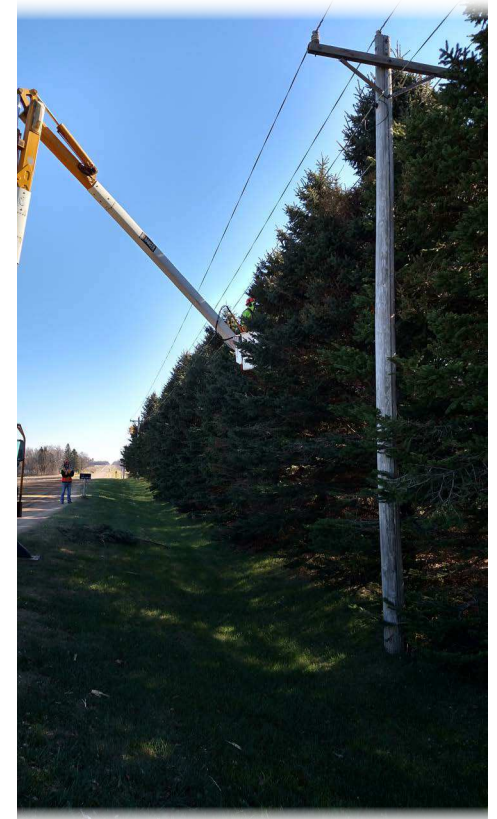
Construction has begun on the South Central Electric Association community solar array. By the time you receive this newsletter all the panels should be installed.



Trimming Future Problems

Continued from page 1...

trees that could pull down a power line if they fall, and trees that could grow into lines. It's a job that's never done—by the time crews finish trimming activities along one part of our distribution lines, vegetation has started to grow back at other parts.



Beware of electric bill scams

We have heard of several reports from other Minnesota electric cooperatives about phone scams concerning their electric bills. According to reports, someone calls pretending to be their electric company stating they have not received their payment. The scammer states they need payment over the phone by getting the members checking account information or credit card information to avoid having their power turned off. South Central Electric Association does not collect payments over the phone. We do not accept credit cards. Any such attempt could be a scam. We advise you to not share any information and call our St. James office to verify if there are any discrepancies with your account.

In working to keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. Even more important, before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

Thanks for your help as we work together to keep electricity reliable. To report trees you think may pose a problem, call 507-375-3164.

Need a new Electrical Service or Upgrade?

We are making plans and ordering material for this upcoming construction season. If you are planning to build and may need a new service or if you think you may need a service upgrade within the next year, please give us a call.

South Central Electric 2015 Rebate Programs

Recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. (507-375-3164) Applications are available on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

Appliance Rebates: Please see rebate applications for details, must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.

Clothes Washer	\$25 Credit applied to the energy bill
Dehumidifier	\$15 Credit applied to the energy bill
Freezer	\$15 Credit applied to the energy bill
Refrigerator	\$15 Credit applied to the energy bill
Dishwasher	\$15 Credit applied to the energy bill
Purchase new Energy Star Refrigerator and recycle old refrigerator	\$75 Credit applied to the energy bill
Purchase new Energy Star Freezer and recycle old freezer	\$75 Credit applied to the energy bill

Air Source Heat Pumps - Quality Install:

SEER 14.5	\$350
SEER 15	\$350
SEER 16+	\$350

Air Conditioner - Quality Install:

SEER 14.5	\$150
SEER 15	\$150
SEER 16+	\$150

Ductless Heat Pump \$350

Ground Source Heat Pump \$400/ton

ECM Furnace Motors \$25

Room Air Conditioner \$25

Air Conditioner Tune Up \$25

LED light fixtures (home) \$3/each Limit 15 per member/year

Holiday LED light strings \$1/each Limit 15 per member/year

Commercial and Industrial Rebates: Rebates are available on a case by case basis. Rebates can be for lighting upgrades and efficient electric motor upgrades. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.





We need updated phone numbers

If you have dropped your landline and have a different phone number, please call our office so we can update our records. If you have any additional phone numbers we could call to reach you, please feel free to share those with us.

FOLLOW US



on Facebook!


attention

2014 South Central Electric Members –

Your 2014 patronage allocation is on the bill mailed with this newsletter.

Heading South for the Winter?

If you're one of the lucky "snowbirds" who escape to the sunny south during the winter months, we would like some information from you before you leave. Please fill out the form and mail it or bring it to the office or call us.



Name: _____

Account #: _____

Location #: _____

Date Leaving: _____

Date Returning: _____

If the bill is not forwarded, you should pay in advance for the months you plan to be gone. Contact us for estimated amount or any other questions you may have.

Meet the employees serving you.

Meet Keith Newberg

Keith Newberg joined South Central Electric in the fall of 1993 as a part-time employee. In November of 2005 he became a full-time employee as the material clerk. Keith lives on the family farm where he grew up near St. James with his wife Lori. They have two daughters. Keith farms, raising cattle along with his hobby of riding horses. He recently retired from weekends of traveling to area rodeos, where he participated in steer wrestling competition.



Save on Postage – Get E-Z Pay

Tired of paying for postage to send in your monthly payment. South Central Electric offers the E-Z Pay Payment Plan. You can have your electric utility payment made automatically from your checking or savings account. And, you won't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of the service.

The E-Z Pay Plan will help you in several ways:

- ✓ It saves time.
- ✓ Helps meet your commitment in a convenient and timely manner; even if you're on vacation or out of town.
- ✓ No lost or misplaced statements. Your payment is always on time.
- ✓ Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
- ✓ Monthly meter reading can be submitted on-line or by calling our office.

It takes one billing cycle to begin the automatic process. You simply pay your electric bill this month and starting the next month, your bill will be paid automatically. You can get the form on our website or call or visit the St. James office.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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E-mail address:

sce@southcentralelectric.com

Web:

www.southcentralelectric.com

Office hours:

Monday through Friday
May 1 – September 30: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
October 1 – April 30: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors

Mark Sandberg, President
Bruce Falk, Vice President
Brent Imker, Secretary
Mike Miest, Treasurer
Ron Jorgenson, Director
Brad Asendorf, Director
William Kunz, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Starting October 1 office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS South Central Electric Offices will be closed:

- November 26** – Thanksgiving Day
- December 24** – Christmas Eve
(closing at noon)
- December 25** – Christmas Day
- January 1** – New Year's Day



Send Us Your Favorite Recipe!

Send to South Central Electric, P.O. Box 150, St. James, MN 56081 or e-mail them to jhaler@southcentralelectric.com. Please add your name, city and phone number. Thanks for sharing!

Watt's Cookin'?

Pumpkin Bread

by Patricia Warnemunde, St. James

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1½ cup sugar | ½ tsp. cloves |
| 2 eggs, beaten | ½ tbsp. allspice |
| ½ cup oil | ½ tbsp. cinnamon |
| 1 cup pumpkin | ½ tbsp. nutmeg |
| ¼ tbsp. baking powder | 1¾ cup flour |
| 1 tbsp. baking soda | ⅓ cup water |

Mix all in one bowl, beat with mixer until smooth. Bake in one large or two small bread tins. Bake 1 hour at 350° or until done.

