



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Your kitchen can yield big energy savings.

Check the refrigerator door seal for a tight fit.

Run only full dishwasher loads, and use the microwave rather than oven to reheat food and make small meals.

Finally, unplug small appliances when not in use—many draw power even when turned off.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed November 22nd & 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving.

Finding the Value of Electricity

Cell phones and personal digital devices are a part of our culture. Everyone, it seems, is connected on the go, whether they are just making phone calls, text messaging, or checking e-mail. Such communication freedom is a luxury we pay for, generally without grumbling.

So why is it that when it comes to electricity, a necessity in our modern world, many people complain when the electric bill comes every month? We expect electricity to be there at the flip of the switch, and when it is not, we get angry or frustrated.

Over the past years, gasoline has gone up. A loaf of white bread has risen 3.73 percent annually, and a dozen eggs jumped 7.39 percent last year.

Electricity with Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) costs .08 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) during the summer and .06 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) during the winter and has remained unchanged since February 2009. When you consider how reliable electricity is, the value goes up even more.

Nearly a third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cell phones,



plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers, and multiple televisions have become the norm.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster, or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. Lake Region Electric Cooperative is looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation, and putting you, our members, first.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & EIA's Residential Energy Consumption Survey

Keep POWER POLES

A wooden power pole may seem like a great place to put up a sign, but it is dangerous to line workers who have to climb the pole. Staples, tacks, or nails used to attach signs can hinder a line worker, or pierce the worker's safety equipment, possibly resulting in electrocution. Attachments to poles also damage poles and reduce their life.

CLEAR



Sealing your Ducts makes a **Difference**

Leaky ductwork can reduce the overall efficiency of your heating or cooling system by as much as 20 percent. In other words, you could install an energy efficient furnace or heat pump, but leaky ductwork could reduce the efficiency by 20 percent.

The solution can be simple, use metal-backed tape or duct mastic (a paint on sealer) to seal all the seams in metal ductwork 3337001 that runs through unheated spaces (attics, crawl spaces, and garages).

If your ducts are easily accessible, you may be able to seal some leaks on your own. An easy first step is to check if ducts have become disconnected and reconnect them. Next, check the duct connections for leaks by turning on your heating and cooling system fan. If you feel air leaking around the duct joints, apply a proper sealing material.



A New Smartphone App From Touchstone Energy

■ *An Amazing Tool to Save Energy and Money*

Watch how little changes add up to big savings. With the TogetherWeSave.com App, you can discover easy ways to save energy and money in your home.

The App calculates possible savings, based on ZIP codes and Department of Energy (DOE) climate zones. With the new TogetherWeSave.com App, you can receive a “tip of the day” reminder of ways to save energy and money around your home, discover how much energy your appliances use, and receive energy-related alerts from Touchstone Energy.

The free App is available for Apple iPhones and iPads at the iTunes store and for Android smart phones at play.google.com search for: Together We Save. If you have any questions regarding energy savings, contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative for answers and discover more ways to keep your energy cost down. Call us at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Operations and Right-of-Way Update

Midwestern Electrical Contractors hired by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), is conducting pole change-outs in the area of Wagoner, and the east and west borders of Lake Ft. Gibson. A pole change-out is just how it sounds. Construction crews remove the old poles and replace them with brand new poles. These pole change-outs help keep LREC's power system safe and reliable. Pole change-outs are a major part of preventing outages.

On the right-of-way clearing side of the operations, Northeast Rural Services is trimming trees along the Clear Creek feeder near Hulbert. Asplundh

crews are trimming trees in the area of Wildwood and Norwood. There is a LREC right-of-way crew cutting trees and clearing the feeders from the Perk Substation, in the Woodall and Park Hill area. Other LREC right-of-way crews are cutting trees for service orders and hot spots.

Managing vegetation around electric power lines is critical to the safe and reliable delivery of your service. Trees are a leading cause of electric power outages.

LREC remains committed to our mission of providing safe, reliable, reasonably priced electric service. If you have any questions concerning line construction or right-of-way issues, please contact our office at 918-772-2526 or toll-free 800-364-LREC.

Contractors Working for LREC



Photo by: Larry Mattes

LREC right-of-way crew: Stephen Lewallen and Brent Lamons

Brighter nights are yours

with Lake Region Electric Security Lights



The longer evenings in winter are a good time to think about illuminating your property with a high-pressure sodium security light from Lake Region Electric Cooperative. Security lights are a proven deterrent to crime, plus they cast a welcome glow around your yard that can prevent mishaps caused by stumbling around in the dark. Call us today about installing a security light that meets your needs. Monthly rates include free maintenance and installations.

918-772-2526 or toll-free 800-364-LREC

Are all Fires the Same?

Where there's smoke, there's fire. While all blazes may look the same, fires should not be treated equally. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, more than 26,000 electrical home fires result in property damage, injuries, and even death every year. Remember this acronym **F.I.R.E** for electrical safety:

Find the source before it starts

Old or faulty wiring often emerges as the main culprit in causing electrical fires. In electrical fires, heat from wiring or an overloaded system can provide the strike that leads to a fire. But there are often signs before a fire even starts.

Investigate the signs

If you notice flickering lights, recurring trips in a circuit breaker, or a sizzling sound around wiring and hot light switches, call a qualified electrician. These may indicate an imminent fire hazard.

Remedy the problem

If you have any signs of a pending fire or have worries about old wiring, contact a professional electrician. Other precautions include:

- Use correct wattage bulbs to prevent overheating fixtures.
- Avoid using damaged cords or running cords under rugs.
- Do not overload outlets or extension cords.
- Routinely check appliances for signs of wear and tear or overheating.

Exit the Building

If you are faced with an electrical fire, call 911 immediately and have everyone exit the building. If you feel you



Safeelectricity.org

It's important to identify and fix electrical problems. Avoid using damaged cords or running cords under rugs.

- must face a small fire, know the proper way to approach it.
- Never use water on an electrical fire. Water conducts electricity, so it will not smother the fire and may lead to electrocution.
- If the circuit breaker does not trip in the area on fire, shut off the main breaker to the house if possible. Be sure to approach the breaker only if the fire is not nearby and if your hands are dry.
- Never use a Class A extinguisher on an electrical fire. Use a Class C or a multi-purpose ABC model. If there is no extinguisher available or the class of extinguisher is not known, baking soda may help smother the flames.
- Again, if the fire is not quickly extinguished, exit the building.

Even though the source and treatment of fires may differ, they produce the same results. You are no match for the force of a house fire—learn **F.I.R.E.** and protect yourself.

Sources: U.S. Fire Administration, Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Incident Reporting System

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