

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2022



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STREET ADDRESS

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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

**Our office will be closed
September 5
in observance of
Labor Day**

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



THE POWER OF PREPARATION

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO
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With severe weather events occurring now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. You don't have to go overboard, but there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety while lessening the impact of an emergency. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, a first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents such as birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers informed of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.



KEVIN BRANDON

CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible; otherwise, call them daily.

If you have an infant, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to sustain an outage lasting several days or more.

KEEPING FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS SAFE

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened in severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure that the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

Here at Southeast Colorado Power Association, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

HAY IS FOR HORSES



USE IT WITH CARE NEAR POWER LINES

Using hay on the ranch or farm is like using water and feed — it is essential. However, be careful near overhead power lines. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales underneath power lines.
- Bales could get close to or contact a power line, pole or guy wire.



IN ADDITION:

- Tarps that cover hay can come loose in heavy winds.
- The tarp can then whip in the wind.
- The unruly tarp could contact a power line and cause an outage.

Learn more:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**[®]

STAY SAFE ON YOUR RANCH OR FARM

There are all types of precautions ranchers and farmers take to stay safe. Electrical hazards, however, can sometimes be overlooked since electricity is not seen or heard and overhead power lines can become part of the landscape.

Implement these electrical safety tips on your farm or ranch:

- In general, look for exposed energized parts and unguarded electrical equipment that could become energized unexpectedly.
- Take care when operating watering tanks with electric pumps. In addition, irrigation systems should not spray water near overhead power lines.
- Inspect electrical fencing regularly to ensure that everything is tight and secure so that no parts are frayed. A sagging fence means not only that animals could escape, but it can also create electrical issues.
- Ensure that your electric fence is well supported. A lack of support can cause it to sag.
- Make sure electric fencing is visible by using electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.
- Cap posts, especially metal T-posts, to prevent an animal (or human) from becoming impaled.
- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales under power lines.
- Be aware that tarps that cover hay can come loose and blow in heavy winds, sometimes causing an outage if the tarp gets too close to or contacts a power line.
- When using a generator and double throw switch, make sure they are in good working order and up to code.
- Check electrical center pivot equipment before and after use to ensure that it is grounded, that the housing is protected and that the wiring is sound (this protects livestock and people).
- Ensure that irrigation equipment is regularly inspected. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for inspection and maintenance directions.
- Always turn off the power before working on an irrigation system.
- After a storm, make sure the system has not become ungrounded due to lightning.
- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines; also, store unused pipes away from power lines.
- Always be aware of overhead power line locations and use a spotter when working close to lines or poles.
- Follow safe digging procedures. Call 811 to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground. WIN* Debra McKee acct 1606620002

To learn more about electrical safety on the ranch or farm or in general, visit SafeElectricity.org.



THINK BIG
THIS SCHOOL YEAR

GET **BIGGER** INTERNET SPEEDS

SECOM

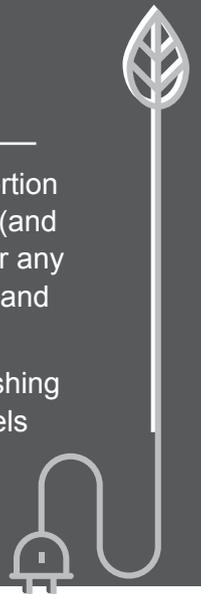
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines.

When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are Energy Star-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



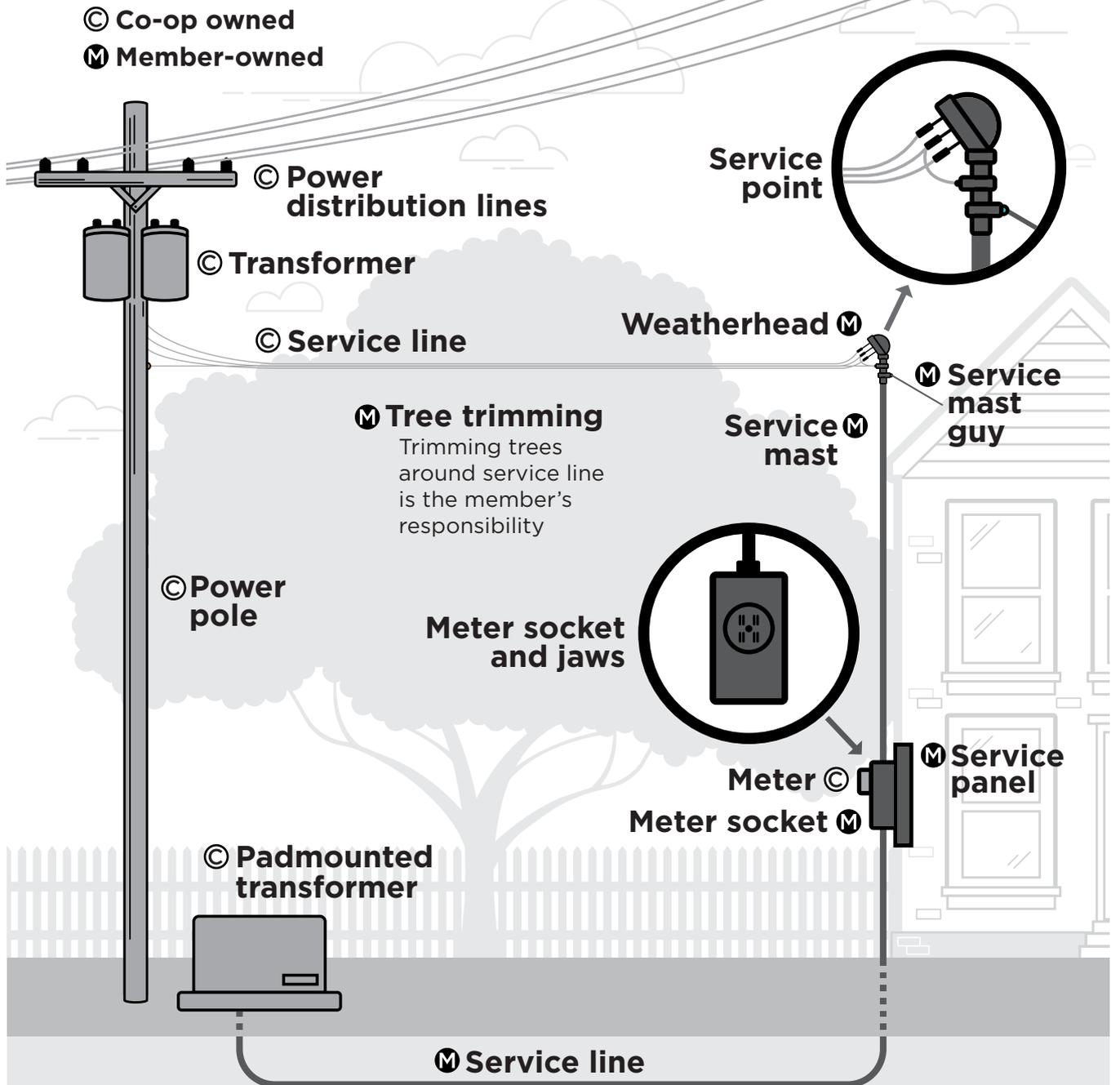
YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill. **Last month's winner was Ed Chavez.**

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (C) and the member (M). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.