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Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: *energy.gov*

Congratulations!

Sam Casteel is our online survey winner.

Offices Closed

CHEC offices will be closed on September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

CHEC Supports Local Schools

CHEC believes strongly in education and in supporting the local school districts within our service territory. One of the ways we contribute financially is through our payment of gross receipts taxes.

CHEC pays a gross receipts tax equal to 2% of our total gross revenue to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Ninety-five percent of the taxes paid is distributed by the tax commission to area schools. Each school receives an amount determined by the miles of electric line within its district. The chart, to the right of the page, provides a breakdown of the distribution of the 2015-2016 taxes paid by CHEC per school district.

For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, CHEC paid \$574,713.68 on 2,889 miles of line to 23 school districts in its seven-county territory.



Photo by Felicia Williams

Stigler High School

Tax Allocation to Local Schools

School District	Taxes Paid
Belfonte	\$11,147.55
Bokoshe	\$146.83
Brushy	\$13,110.94
Central	\$25,121.26
Gans	\$23,410.77
Gore	\$46,439.94
Keota	\$44,737.96
Kinta	\$33,607.16
Liberty	\$8,690.25
Marble City	\$12,339.20
McCurtain	\$23,552.65
Moffett	\$465.48
Muldrow	\$43,653.55
Porum	\$27,321.03
Quinton	\$12,089.94
Roland	\$15,969.89
Sallisaw	\$57,412.29
Stigler	\$78,930.41
Vian	\$57,179.67
Warner	\$12,044.42
Webbers Falls	\$16,904.51
Whitefield	\$10,216.72
Wilburton	\$221.26

Total \$574,713.68

Reminder:



The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 68th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2016, at Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

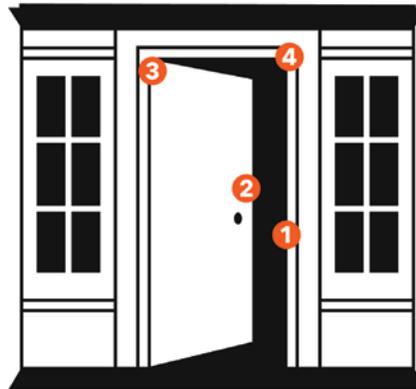


If You Find Your Account Number
Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*,
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on
Your Electric Bill

WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



1 CLEANING SURFACES - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

Watt's Cooking



Chicken Casserole

Submitted by Felicia Williams

3 to 4 cooked chicken breasts – chopped
16 oz pkg wide egg noodles – cooked
8 oz sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cream of mushroom soup
8 oz shredded cheese



Combine chicken, noodles, sour cream, and soups in a large bowl. Mix well. Pour into a 13x9 baking dish. Sprinkle shredded cheese over the top of the casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted.

If you have a recipe you would like to share, please e-mail it to fwilliams@cooksonhills.com. You may also drop it off or mail it to one of our offices.

Electrical Safety Lessons for Kids

By Meghaan Evans

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At CHEC, we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.



One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call CHEC.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

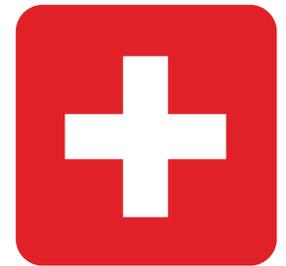
No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, CHEC is here to help. To learn more about electrical safety, visit www.cooksonhills.com.

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives

Life-Threatening Situation

Your well-being is our concern. Many of our members live with a life-threatening situation where the member or other permanent resident of the household is dependent upon equipment that is prescribed by a physician, with the equipment operating on electricity and needed to sustain the person's life. Examples of life-sustaining equipment would be kidney dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators, or any other equipment that is prescribed by a licensed medical doctor that sustains life.

In order to classify you as a medical necessity member, you must have a licensed medical doctor complete our Medical Certificate form which verifies the existence of a life-threatening situation. The form is available to members at both our Stigler and Sallisaw offices. We may also mail you a form at your request. **Please note: completion of the form does not guarantee that your power will not go off. Some outages are beyond the control of CHEC. Emergency restoration cannot be guaranteed. Please always have a backup plan in place.**



Let's Stay In Touch!

Keeping your account information up-to-date is important to you as well as to CHEC.

The most common inaccurate account information is your phone number. CHEC periodically calls members to notify you of a controlled outage, billing information, and other important information. If your phone number has changed, if you have disconnected your home phone, or if you have a

new cell phone number, please contact us.

You can update your phone number and other account information by visiting our website at www.cooksonhills.com and logging onto SmartHub, or by calling your local office at 800-328-2368 (Stigler) or at 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).



The differences between overhead and underground power lines

By Tom Tate

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home: overhead and underground. CHEC's members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment—like transformers, fuses and reclosers—are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, now the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Let's take a look at some the advantages and disadvantages of each construction method, beginning with overhead.

Overhead construction

Pros:

- Lower cost, quicker construction, easier to spot damage and faults, less expensive to repair and upgrade, can be built anywhere, any voltage can be placed overhead.

Cons:

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow; more vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires

right of way trimming; vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines; susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions; less attractive.

Underground construction

Pros:

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches; no right of way trimming required; less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions; not impacted by wind, ice and snow; less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines.

Cons:

- More expensive to build; susceptible to flooding; difficult to locate faults; expensive to repair; fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions; limitations on voltages that can be buried underground; can be vulnerable to dig-ins.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by CHEC provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach, overhead or underground.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Learn how to save more energy and more money at
www.TakeControlAndSave.coop