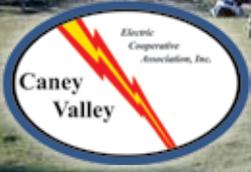


cve@caneyvalley.com  
www.caneyvalley.com  
For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

## THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# TheVoice



### Caney Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

#### Board of Trustees

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#### Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308  
Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
620-758-2262, Fax: 620-758-2926  
cve@caneyvalley.com

#### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for August is \$0.01816/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$18.16 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

### FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## Remember 'Safety First' Around Power Lines

Recently at a meeting, information was shared about two instances of public contacts with utility power lines. Both situations involved persons doing work near power lines which would require great awareness of their surroundings to prevent an accident. One event caused death, and the other caused unconsciousness with a later miraculous recovery.

With this in mind, *Kansas Country Living* magazine routinely includes messages about electric utility line safety and the following is another reminder for us all.

"Safety first" is an old, common phrase which well describes the daily operations of the cooperative. Our employees, both line workers and administrative, perform their work following appropriate safety standards.

Monthly safety meetings are held with professional safety instructors and programs emphasizing the correct work procedures and the importance of working in a safety-minded environment.

"Safety first" on the job benefits the cooperative's operations even beyond avoiding tragic accidents. It helps to keep employees on the job and not absent due to injury. It builds a common thread of confidence and competence among the employees. It sets a good example for the cooperative members to follow in their work, play and daily activities. It helps to control the coop-

erative's costs for workers compensation and general liability insurance.

We encourage the public to also put "safety first" to avoid potential power line hazards. Overhead lines are so common in our everyday lives, they can fade from view and people can forget their life-threatening danger if contacted. Below is a list of types of public contacts with electric utility power lines that have occurred involving electric cooperatives in recent years.

We all need to be aware of electric power lines and to avoid circumstances that could cause contact with them. Please help us to prevent an accident in our co-op community.

**Allen A. Zadorozny, General Manager**

## Be Aware of Power Line Hazards

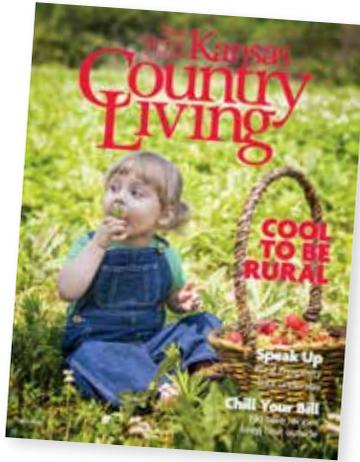
- ▶ Aircraft wire strikes
- ▶ Antennas
- ▶ Child in haystack under line
- ▶ Child in tree
- ▶ Children's kites/toys in line
- ▶ Consumers or contractors trimming trees
- ▶ Delivery truck booms
- ▶ Downed line after car accidents
- ▶ Downed line from farm equipment
- ▶ Electrical work by consumers or electricians
- ▶ Fighting fire from downed line after storm
- ▶ Grain auger
- ▶ Illegal service reconnections
- ▶ Irrigation pipe
- ▶ Ladders and scaffolding
- ▶ Underground service dig-ins
- ▶ Utility construction contractors
- ▶ Well-digging apparatus

## This Magazine Cost-Effectively Fulfills Several Cooperative Principles

What's delivered to your home each month, provides something for everyone in your household and costs less than a cup of regular (not a fancy frappé or lavish mocha) coffee at McDonald's? *Kansas Country Living* magazine, and it's the most cost-effective way to share important business information with our consumer-members along with interesting features about this great state and the communities in which we live, work and play.

As a consumer and a member of Caney Valley Electric, you are entitled to know and understand how your cooperative operates. Cooperative Principle No. 2, Democratic Member Control, means our consumer-members participate in setting policies and making decisions for the electric co-op. It's Caney Valley Electric's responsibility to keep you informed of the co-op's business in a timely, and hopefully interesting, manner so when it's time to vote on issues and for representation on the board of trustees you will have the knowledge to make informed decisions. By doing so, we fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 5—educate our members about their electric cooperative so they may effectively contribute to its development.

So, for less than the cost of a decent cup of coffee, your cooperative keeps you abreast of annual meeting details, legislative issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, and outage and construction activities. Through the magazine we introduce you to co-op employees—your neighbors—who work to maintain safe and



reliable electricity, and bring you safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

Caney Valley Electric is one of 24 Kansas electric cooperatives providing *Kansas Country Living* to their consumer-members. By combining forces with other electric co-ops, the cost to produce our local co-op pages and the magazine make it our main communication vehicle of choice to get substantive information to you, which relates directly to Cooperative

Principle No. 6—Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Our social media channel—Facebook, as well as our website—enhance what we provide in *Kansas Country Living* and offer immediate response for outages and other time-sensitive announcements. All of these communication channels work together to meet all of our consumer-members where they choose to access their information.

This month, more than 131,000 magazines will be mailed to electric cooperative consumer-members in Kansas, including those representing us in Washington, D.C., and at the Kansas Statehouse. By keeping our policymakers informed of rural and cooperative issues, we help fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 7—Concern for Community, which arguably is the most important of the Seven Cooperative Principles as we all work for the sustainability of our communities.

## Is a Power Line Insulated? (and Other Myths Debunked)

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q&As to clear up common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

### What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 911 to report it. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

### Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark or arc and it may not make any noise at all (although it could).

### Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in a street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

### Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to hang down or be on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.

### Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but a non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

### If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it is not automatically dead, even if the power is off in your area. There's a good chance the line is still energized, which means you should not touch it, the surrounding ground or any metal objects nearby as they all could be

energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly. Remember, even objects that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are remotely wet.

### What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 911 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away.

### Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.

For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Control Your Peak Usage

For August and September, we are asking you to participate in the "Peak Control" program. This voluntary program can help hold down the wholesale power costs incurred by the cooperative.

The peak demand for electricity recorded in July and August drives a major part of the wholesale power billing process for the eight off-peak months that follow, October through May. The lower the peak demand registered, the lower demand charges will be. Keeping the peak demand low in June and September is also important.

Please take time to review the key parts of Peak Control below. Contact Caney Valley at 620-758-2261 or 800-310-8911 if you have any questions. Thank you for your participation in this program.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Peak Control

### What is Peak Control?

Peak control is a voluntary program in which our cooperative members can participate to hold down electricity costs.

### What Can Members Do to Participate in Peak Control?

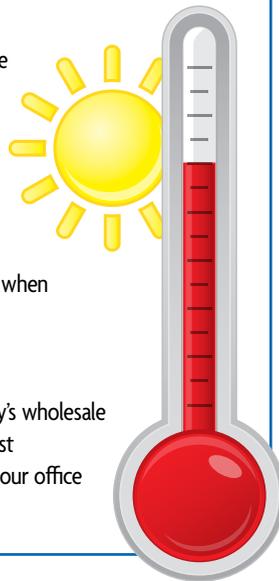
You can participate by voluntarily reducing your use of electric equipment and appliances that require larger amounts of electricity.

### When do Members Need to Participate in Peak Control?

During the hours of 3-7 p.m. every weekday from June 1-Sept. 30. The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley during those two months drives the electricity billings from our wholesale supplier for the following eight months, October-May. Be aware of days that have high temperatures forecast above 90 degrees; these are the type of days when peak demands usually occur.

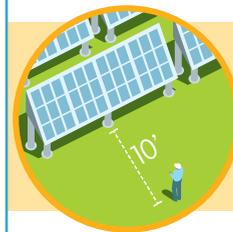
### What are the Benefits of Taking Part in Peak Control?

By helping hold the line for the kW demand charges on Caney Valley's wholesale electric bill, you will also limit the amount of the resulting power cost adjustment (PCA) charges added to your electric bill. Please contact our office for any questions you may have about the Peak Control program.



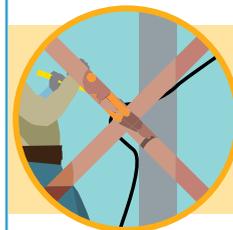
## SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet from the installation.

Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.

Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.



## HAPPY LABOR DAY

Hats off to our staff! In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2. As always, if you have trouble or an outage, call our office at 620-758-2262 or 800-310-8911 and your call will be forwarded to our dispatcher.



# Power Theft Policy Protects Members' Investment

In response to some cooperative members who have tampered with their electric meter or other electrical devices resulting in the theft of services, the Caney Valley Electric Board of Trustees implemented a policy on power theft as follows:

Members are advised that Caney Valley Electric will hold members responsible both civilly and criminally for any theft of electric energy and/or meter tampering, pursuant to Kansas Statutes, plus any fees that may arise as a result of same.

Kansas Statute 21-3704 specifies that theft of services is:

- ▶ a) Obtaining services from another by deception, threat, coercion, stealth, tampering or use of false token or device.
- ▶ b) "Services" within the meaning of this section includes, but is not limited

to ... public or municipal utility services ... and rural electric cooperatives shall be considered public utilities.

- ▶ c) "Tampering" within the meaning of this section includes, but is not limited to:
  - ▶ 1) Making a connection of any wire, conduit or device to any service or transmission line owned by a public or municipal utility ... ;
  - ▶ 2) Defacing, puncturing, removing, reversing or altering any meter or any connections for the purpose of securing unauthorized or unmeasured electricity ... ;
  - ▶ 3) Preventing any such meters from properly measuring or registering;
  - ▶ 4) Knowingly taking, receiving, using or converting to such person's own use, or the use of another, any electricity ... which has not been measured; or
  - ▶ 5) Causing, procuring, permitting, aiding or abetting any person to do any of the preceding acts.
- ▶ d) In any prosecution under this section, the existence of any of the connections of meters, alterations or use of unauthorized or unmeasured electricity ... shall be evidence of intent to violate the provisions of this section.
- ▶ e) Theft of services of the value of:

- ▶ 1) Less than \$1,000 is a class A misdemeanor
- ▶ 2) At least \$1,000 but less than \$25,000 is a level 9 felony.

Indications of meter tampering or obvious theft witnessed by an employee or member of the public will be immediately investigated. The reporting party's name and other information shall be held confidential.

Members will be charged \$100 if an account is found, for a second time, to have missing or altered sealing devices. For any subsequent occurrence, the members will also be responsible for employee time and materials needed to repair and install any additional locking devices.

**IF A MEMBER IS FOUND TO HAVE WILLFULLY DIVERTED POWER TO ANY ACCOUNT FOR ANY REASON, THAT ACCOUNT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISCONNECTED.** Power will not be restored until the account holder has paid a diversion charge of \$250 plus any estimated lost revenue charges. Any damage to Cooperative property will be billed on a time and material basis. Willfully diverting power a second time will result in a fee of \$500 plus any other charges. Management may seek prosecution under Kansas Statute #21-3704 of any person found diverting power or tampering with the meter.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics		
For Month Ending	May 2019	May 2018
Meters Billed	5,295	5,374
kWh Purchased	4,409,658	5,157,474
Cost per kWh	0.07779	0.07866
kWh Sold	3,921,583	4,219,522
Total Revenue	\$ 642,348	\$ 668,483
Purchased Power	\$ 344,049	\$ 406,526
Operating Expenses	\$ 239,411	\$ 190,402
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 67,882	\$ 66,379
Interest Expenses	\$ 48,788	\$ 41,827
Other Expenses	\$ 325	\$ 235
Operating Margins	\$ (58,105)	\$ (36,887)
Non-Operating Margins	\$ 1,961	\$ 2,013
Total Margins	\$ (56,144)	\$ (34,874)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 45,468	\$ 74,342

Outages for June 2019				
Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Following are the larger outages that occurred in June.				
Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
6/3	Silverdale substation	361	2 hr 40 min	Westar off
6/12	Grenola substation	350	5 hr 20 min	Westar off-broken jumper
6/12	Grenola sub - south circuit	116	3 hr	Westar off-broken jumper
6/23	3-phase to Peru	50	35 min	Lightning
6/26	Cedar Vale sub - west circuit	263	25 min	Squirrel on transformer
6/29	3-phase to Wayside	25	1 hr 30 min	Reset OCR