



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

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### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. Remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative  
Research Network



## Online Bill Payment Available from Lake Region Electric Cooperative

Did you know that you can now pay your monthly electric bill ONLINE – right from the Lake Region Electric Cooperative website?

You can make your payment automatically from your checking account, debit or credit card. Simple as that. Visit our website at [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop), then click on **Pay Now** and choose your online bill payment options.

It is Lake Region Electric Cooperative's policy to provide services and information that deliver superior customer service.

If you have any questions, please call us at 800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.



## Lake Region Electric Cooperative in the Community

Hulbert's Christmas Parade had two entries from Lake Region Electric Cooperative. LREC employees participated in the first ever Hulbert Christmas parade on December 8, 2012 following the theme "An Old Country Christmas." Employees volunteered their time and talent to

help decorate two bucket trucks with Christmas decorations and LED lights.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the community and the members. LREC hopes to continue the tradition of participating in the Hulbert Christmas parade.



Photos by: Larry Mattes



# Touchstone Energy: What it means to you, the members

You have probably seen the words “**Touchstone Energy**” under our logo, on our website and even in this newsletter. You might also be asking yourself what it means.

It means that Lake Region Electric Cooperative is part of a national alliance of 741 consumer-owned electric co-ops that serve over 30 million members each day. All Touchstone Energy co-ops adhere to the same values: integrity, accountability, innovation and genuine commitment to their communities.

Touchstone Energy – the national brand of electric cooperatives – provides the resources of a national network that help demonstrate the cooperative advantage. This network takes advantage of economies of scale in products and services enhancing their unique relationships with their local member-owners.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Lake Region has access to a variety of member benefits. Some of these benefits include the Co-op Connections Card and Together We Save.

The Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we are proud to be able to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on hotel



stays, prescription drugs, chiropractic services, and many other services.

A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop) and follow the Co-op Connections Card link.

Using the Together We Save campaign we are able to provide you, our members, with a wide variety of energy efficiency

tools. Through [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com) you watch energy efficiency videos, take a virtual home tour and learn how the little changes add up to big savings.

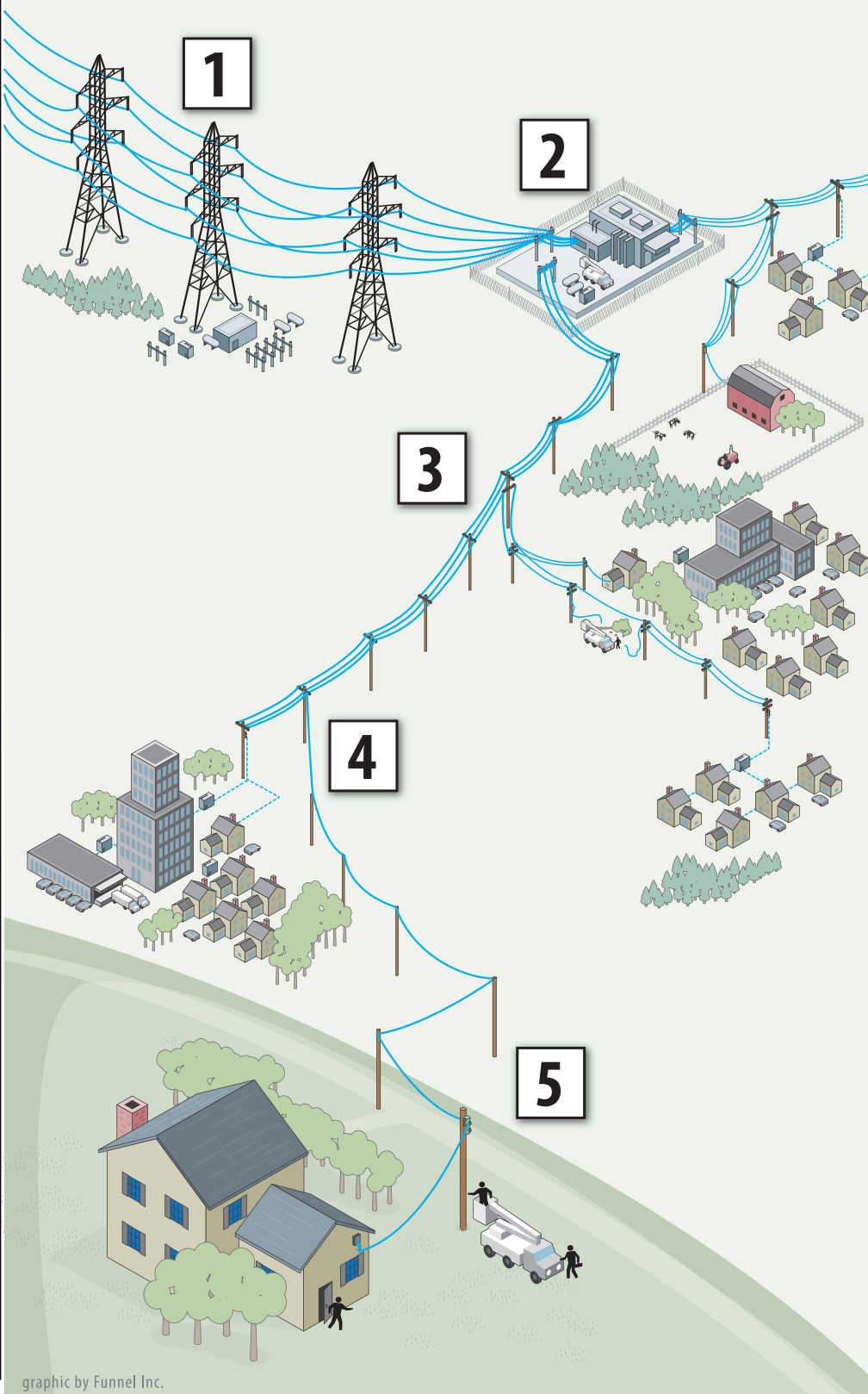
For more information 2600801 about the value that comes with being a Touchstone Energy co-op visit [www.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop) or call Lake Region at 918-772-2526 or toll-free 800-364-LREC.

## Power Outage? What to do first.



- 1** Check your breakers.
- 2** If possible, check with your nearest neighbor to determine if they are also without power.
- 3** Call Lake Region Electric Cooperative at **918-772-2526** or toll-free at **800-364-5732** and report the outage. If you have your account number available this would be helpful, but it is not necessary.
- 4** Please be patient if the lines are busy. During major outages our telephone lines are overloaded with members calling to report their situation. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All calls are answered in the order they are received. You also have the option of using the automated phone system to report your outage.

# Power Restoration Happens in the Following Order



graphic by Funnel Inc.

## **1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines**

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## **2 Distribution Substation**

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

## **3 Main Distribution Lines**

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## **4 Tap Lines**

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

## **5 Individual Homes**

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



# Safe Use of Electric Heating Products



Keep your space heater at least 3 ft. away from yourself and flammable items like blankets, drapes, and rugs.

When used properly and safely, electric blankets and other heating devices can help keep you toasty during cold winter months. Here are a few safety tips for electric blankets and heating pads to keep in mind:

- Purchase items only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are a huge fire and injury hazard. Replace blankets or heating pads with faulty cords.
- Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface.
- Do not put another cover on top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state it's safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.
- Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat—a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that's been tucked in (which can bend wires).
- Never use heated bedding while asleep—look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.

## Space heaters

If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home's heating system, some of the same rules of thumb apply, including purchasing a safety-certified model and reading the included safety instructions. More tips for space heaters:

**“Space heaters are meant to provide supplemental heat, not to replace your home's heating system. In fact, if used incorrectly, space heaters can pose fire and burn risks.”**

- Keep units 3 ft. away from combustible materials—such as bedding, drapes, clothes, and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids like kerosene and gasoline.
- In general, plugging space heaters directly into a wall outlet is best. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's the correct type and boasts the right wire gauge size for your particular space heater. Otherwise, use a wall socket that can handle the load.
- Check safety instructions before using a space heater around water—some models are not intended for use in bathrooms.
- Be sure children are supervised around space heaters. Curious exploration can lead to electrical shock and burns.
- Finally, unplug and store the space heater in a safe place when you're not using it.

*Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*

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### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Telephone

800-364-LREC or  
918-772-2526

### Website:

[www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop)

### Locations

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Tahlequah, OK.

### Main Office Address

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Hulbert, OK 74441

### Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill.

To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone or mail during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

For more information, call **800-364-LREC** or **918-772-2526**

**Cooperative bylaws** are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.