



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*

Water heating ranks as one of the top three energy-related expenses in your home. Save energy and money by installing a water heater blanket, using low-flow showerheads and faucets, and lowering the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department
of Energy

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed
Wednesday, July
4th in observance
of Independence Day!



Please Recycle

Securing Your Data

Growing up in the good old days, people never locked their doors, everyone looked after each other. But times have changed.

It seems every day we hear about another security breach, and today's thieves are not targeting traditional goods like electronics or the family safe. Instead, they want your (and our) data. Cyber thieves keep testing digital doorknobs and looking for open software windows to find a way to crack personal and business databases.

We take this threat seriously. After all, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is owned and governed by you, our members. You have placed your trust in us, and we are committed to protecting your data while delivering reliable, safe, and affordable power.

As a cooperative, we are part of a national network of consumer-controlled electricity providers working together to constantly evaluate

and boost cyber security measures. While there is no sure-fire way to keep data minded computer hackers out, we are making it a lot harder by raising our level of protection.

Collaborating with electric cooperatives across rural America, we are working hard to minimize cyber security risks. Of course cyber security is not a one-time thing, we are constantly improving and reinforcing our defenses with new technologies and the best practices to protect your data and our operations.

No matter what security challenges come in the future, we are striving to be ready to meet them. As always, Lake Region Electric Cooperative will be looking out for you.



Lake Region Electric Empowers Youth

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) joined Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and electric cooperatives from across the state in sponsoring students to attend the YouthPower Energy Camp at Canyon Camp near Hinton, Oklahoma.

YouthPower Energy Camp is a program specifically for eighth grade students. While at camp they formed a coke and candy co-op, selected a manager and dispersed dividends. Students also got to enjoy many games, the chance to climb a utility pole, ride in a bucket truck, complete a 13 low-element ropes course, and a trip to Celebration Station for video games and go-carts.

This year three outstanding students from



Left to right: Harleigh Green, Jessica Johnson, and Carly Sunday, have recently returned from the 2012 Rural Electric YouthPower Energy Camp.

Photo by: OAEC

Energy Camp Continued on page 3 ►

Trimming Future Problems

Trees have many benefits, from adding beauty to a community, to providing shade for our enjoyment. However, trees near utility poles and power lines can pose serious risks to the public and Lake Region Electric Cooperative's crews. Not only can they injure people or property near the line, but tree branches hitting a line may cause power outages, surges, fires, and other damage. A tree with a potential to fall into a utility line is a very serious situation.

Right-of-way is the area around our poles and equipment on the property of landowners. We require the right-of-way to be cleared of vegetation so that our crews can work safely and efficiently when maintenance is required. For overhead lines, we require a 30-foot wide area (15 feet on either side of the pole) for right-of-way. Tree trimming is a costly necessity for the cooperative.

"Lake Region Electric Cooperative invests a significant amount of time, money, and other resources in managing vegetation in its right-of-way," says Martin Walls, Director of Operations.

LREC has contracts with specialists in the management of vegetation and right-of-way clearance to help keep our right-of-ways under control. This year we have two contractors clearing our right-of-way.

Northeast Rural Services is clearing the lines on the Locust Grove substation. They also have a crew spraying herbicide treatment under the power lines feeding off the Highland substation and another crew spraying under the lines off the Wagoner South substation.

Asplundh has one machine crew operating a Hydro Ax/Mower, which serves as a rotary mower behind the Kershaw



Photo by: Larry Matties

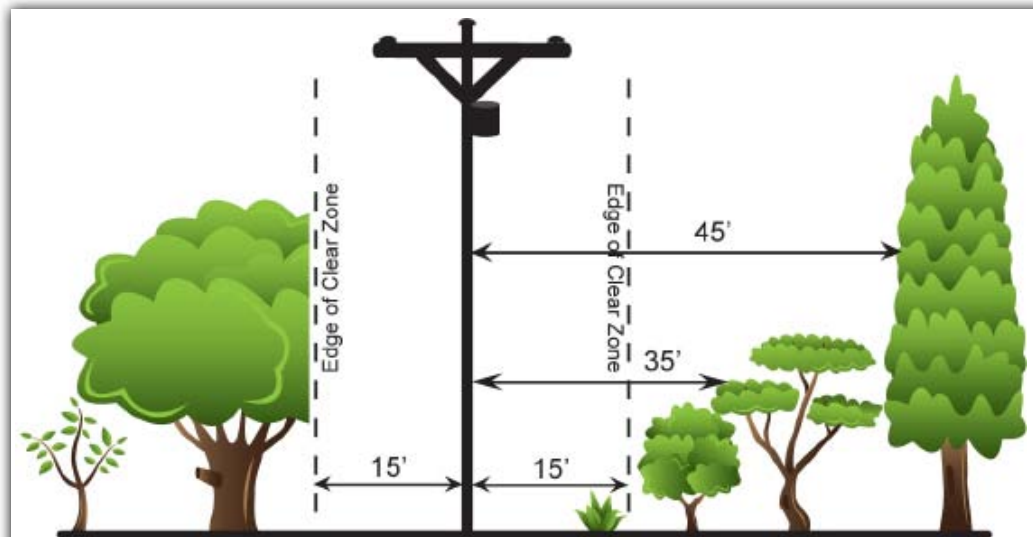
SkyTrim unit. These two large machines work well in rough terrain. They also have two bucket truck crews clearing the lines from the Wagoner South substation.

The LREC in-house right-of-way crews are split up with one crew cleaning the lines off Wagoner West substation. The other crews are hitting hot spots that demand immediate attention and any new services throughout the area.

As a member of the cooperative, you can help us provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity by planting trees and vegetation that are clear of our right-of-way. Trees require room to grow both above and below ground. This means that before you plant a new tree, you must identify the right kind of tree for your yard and the right location, away from power lines and underground facilities.

The graphic illustrates the type of vegetation that can grow safely near the cooperative's right-of-way. When trees must be cleared, tree removal is the most cost effective method in the long term.

If you have any questions concerning right-of-way, please contact James Cook, Right-of-Way Coordinator, at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 918-364-LREC.



Use Caution with Fourth of July Fireworks

What would the Fourth of July be without cookouts, baseball games, and pyrotechnic displays in the night sky? It is easy to forget that fireworks are dangerous explosives, and carelessness could have deadly consequences.

The federal government has banned sales of the most dangerous fireworks to consumers, such as cherry bombs and M-80s. But sparklers, firecrackers, and other smaller fireworks remain legal in Oklahoma.

To help make sure your holiday celebrations do not end with a trip to the emergency room, follow these safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Sparklers aren't safe for small children. They burn at very high temperatures—up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt some metals—and can easily set clothes on fire.
- Ignite fireworks in a clearing, away from power lines, homes, other structures, dry leaves and grass, and other flammable materials. Never light them in any type of container.

- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of emergencies and for fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.

- Check instructions for storage, but generally keep fireworks in a cool, dry place.

- Do not place any part of your body directly over fireworks while you are lighting them, and immediately move away as soon as the device is lit.

- "Homemade" fireworks kits are illegal. Never try to make your own.

- After fireworks have completely burned out, soak them with a hose before throwing them in the trash to help prevent fires.

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate, but we urge you to use caution with fireworks—and always look up for power lines before you shoot anything skyward.

Firework Injuries

Every year, thousands of people are injured by fireworks—8,600 in 2010 alone, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The agency also reports that three people died the same year.

Energy Camp Winners

Continued from page 1

Woodall School; Harleigh Green, the daughter of Lisa Flanagan, Jessica Johnson, daughter of Lyndon and Kristi Johnson, and Carly Sunday, daughter of Larry and Debbie Sunday attended this year's camp with approximately 79 other outstanding students from Oklahoma.

"In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was climbing the poles like the linemen do and the dance," said Johnson.

At the camp, the students attended sessions on energy, electrical safety and rural electric careers. Other special activities of the four-day program included hands-on electrical demonstrations, and 194200 swimming.

"Other highlights of the trip were all the things we learned about electricity, and teamwork. We played a lot of teamwork games," said Green.



The YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and Lake Region Electric Cooperative.



Photos by: OAEC

Don't **SWEAT** Summer Electric **BILLS**

As temperatures rise, there are plenty of things you can do to save energy and trim your electric bill.

Raise your thermostat a couple of degrees—78° is the most efficient setting. Ceiling fans are a great way to move air around the house, and you can shade your electric bill by planting trees on the south side of your home.

Don't sweat summer electric bills—check out www.EnergySavers.gov for more ways to save!

Brought to you by NRECA

Can hot weather cause electrical outages?

When it is sweltering outside, everyone wants to keep cool indoors, so they all crank the air conditioning up at the same time. This creates a greater demand for electricity than when the weather is milder and homeowners can open their windows or leave the a/c on a less-intense setting.

When that happens, power lines tend to heat and expand, which in turn can force the lines to sag a bit and touch tree limbs and branches. That contact can result in short circuits.

At the same time, cables, switches, and other equipment react to the high electric current by stretching, which can magnify minor flaws in insulation and connections.

Plus, lightning strikes are more common when it is hot outside. If lightning strikes the electric cooperative's equipment, it can cause them to malfunction, and the system will not be able to keep up with demand until it is repaired.

Your electric cooperative can not always prevent outages caused by extra hot weather and super-high demand. Still, our crews are trained to restore service as quickly and as safely as possible.



LREC Receives Green Business Award

The Tahlequah Area Chamber presented Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) with the Green Business Award during their annual banquet dinner held on May 17, 2012 at the Northeastern State University Ball Room. One of twelve awards presented during the evening, recognized LREC for its role in implementing many environmentally aware programs, which have included an office recycling program, Energy Star rebates, smart meters demonstrating the benefits of saving electricity to its consumers as well as implementing many energy efficient upgrades to their offices over the years.

"We are honored to have received this award," said Hamid Vahdatipour, CEO.



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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.