



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

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Vol. 3

No. 10



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Two degrees can make a big difference on your electric bill. Setting your thermostat 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher in summer and lower in the winter results in major energy savings. Investing in a programmable thermostat can save even more, these devices automatically lower and raise your home's temperature. Set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Please Recycle

## Bullets Damage LREC Substation Transformer

### ■ *Vandalism Causes Major Outage*

Members of Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) were affected by a large outage early September 5, 2012. A vandal with a high-powered rifle shot a hole in the Tahlequah substation's main transformer and two other shots hit electric breakers. The hole in the 7,500/10,500 kVA transformer cooling fin caused an oil leak, which caused the transformer to short circuit, leaving approximately 2,000 meters without electricity.

LREC line crews and KAMO Power crews were dispatched immediately and the distribution lines were rerouted in order to back feed the affected areas so power could be restored. The majority of members had their power restored within two hours.

A mobile substation had to be brought from KAMO Power in Vinita, who operates and maintains the substation.

Work continued for several days after the outage. A cleanup crew



had to clean the spilled mineral oil and replace gravel inside the substation.

The following week, KAMO Power crews replaced the damaged transformer with a new transformer.

"This prank is estimated to cost just under \$1 million in damages and other associated costs," Hamid Vahdatipour stated. "Costs of vandalism ultimately impact LREC members, either directly or indirectly."

A \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

Vahdatipour is asking anyone with information about who vandalized the substation and breakers to contact the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department at (918) 456-2583, or call LREC at (918) 772-2526 or 800-364-LREC.

## Sign-Up For Automatic Bank-Draft Contest Winners

Electronic payment options like Automatic Bank-Draft can save members time and money by avoiding the use of checks, stamps, and driving expenses. During the month of August members who signed up for Automatic Bank-Draft were entered into a random drawing for four \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. Congratulations: Bradley Asbill, Michael Evans, Janice and Tim Hewitt, and Kimberli Lee.

# Lake Region Electric Crews Respond to Hurricane Isaac

Mutual Aid crews from nine Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives made their way to two locations in the state of Louisiana on August 29, 2012, to assist with repair efforts in the wake of Hurricane Isaac. The Hurricane made landfall in southeastern Louisiana on August 27, 2012.



Photos by: Robert Johnson

Leading the crew, (front) Jason Youngblood, Duane Watkins, James Dallis, and Mark Squyres.

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) Director of Safety & Loss Control, Kenny Guffey, reported that 11 crews and their associated equipment consisting of bucket trucks, digger trucks, pole trailers, and crew vehicles, made their way to Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation, located in New Roads,

LA, and Beauregard Electric Cooperative, located in DeRidder, LA.

While most crews assisted Pointe Coupee Electric Cooperative, a small group assisted at Beauregard Electric Cooperative.

“Our Statewide association participates in our national Mutual Aid program, and we were contacted by officials with the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, asking for assistance,” said Guffey.

Nine electric cooperatives responded to requests to supply crews and equipment. Lake Region Electric Cooperative sent a crew of six volunteers; Dean Kirkpatrick, Robert Johnson, Jason Youngblood, Duane Watkins, James Dallis, and Mark Squyres. This crew left their homes in Oklahoma to assist with restoring the



Mutual Aid crew from another Oklahoma electric cooperative.

electric for these fellow co-op members in Louisiana.

“This is one of our basic cooperative principles in action—cooperatives helping cooperatives. We know that they would return the favor if disaster strikes our area,” said Martin Walls, Lake Region Electric Director of Operations.

## Time to Caulk and Save Some Money

We may not be ready to think about it yet, but now is a good time to prepare your home for the cold weather that lies ahead. With some preparation and work, you can reduce your energy use and save money.

“Caulking can be one of the most inexpensive, most effective, and simplest ways to help prepare your home to fend off cold weather,” advises Glen Clark, LREC Member Services “It is a good way to block many of the air leaks that let cold air in.”

Check around outlets and look for gaps near the dryer vent, ducting, chimneys, and faucet pipes. Seal gaps with caulking or weather-stripping.

There are many types of caulk on the market for use on different surfaces and in various weather conditions.

You will need to prepare the area to be caulked by cleaning it. Remove dirt, old caulk, and other particles.

For energy saving tips visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com)

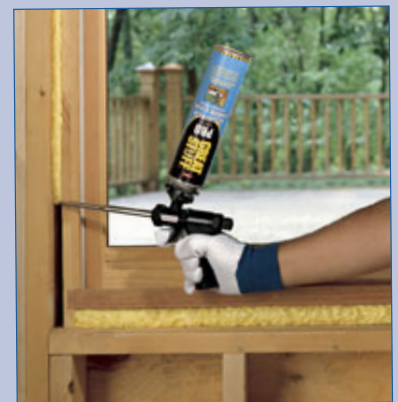


Photo by: SafeElectricity.org



# Celebrate National Cooperative Month this October



**CO-OPS FIRST DELIVERED  
AFFORDABLE POWER TO RURAL  
AMERICANS 75 YEARS AGO.  
WHY STOP NOW?**

October is Cooperative Month. And even though electric co-ops have been around for awhile, we're still finding new ways for you to save money. Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)

Join Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) in celebrating cooperatives in Oklahoma and across America during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (the cooperative term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

"Cooperatives are special," says Hamid Vahdatipour, CEO. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities."

LREC is proud to be part of America's cooperative net-

work, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages.

LREC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts, and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

"Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling for lack of investment," Vahdatipour explains. "Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That is what we celebrate each October."

In addition to cooperative utilities, Oklahoma residents are served cooperatively by credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and more! To learn more about co-ops and find one near you, visit [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop).

*Source: NRECA*

## Recycling Program Grows with LREC Employees

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) has positioned itself as an environmentally friendly business. The cooperative has been participating in a recycling program since the beginning of 2012 and other initiatives aimed at making northeast Oklahoma a greener place to live.

Since launching the employee recycling program, Lake Region Electric Cooperative's employees have recycled and diverted approximately 5 tons of cardboard, plastic and paper, wooden pallets and aluminum from landfills.

Tahlequah Recycling Inc. hauls a trailer full of recyclable material normally twice a month for LREC's Hulbert Office. These

trailers average around 400 lbs of material.

"We started the program internally, and then employees started bringing in items from home," said Mike Heaton, Meter Technician for LREC. "They bring their recyclables to work so it can be easily added to our recycling containers."



*Photo courtesy of Tahlequah Recycling Inc., Bales weigh 200-300 lbs each*

### Did You Know?

Every Sunday, 500,000 trees are used to produce the 88% of newspapers that are never recycled.

# Have a CREEPY - but safe - Halloween



Halloween lights and decorations in October are almost as common as Christmas displays in December. The same safety rules—plus a few special cautions for costumes—apply on Fright Night:

Wear costumes and accessories that are flame resistant, flame retardant, and non-combustible. Choose decorations 1596110 with those qualities, too.

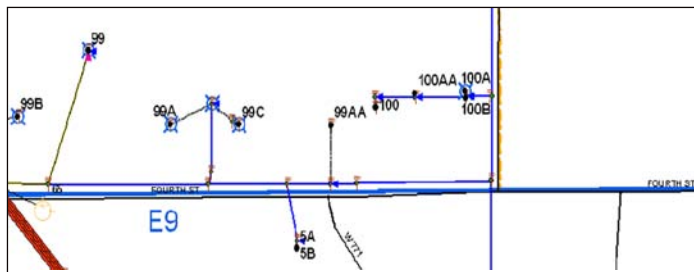
- ▶ If you are using last year's lights and lighted displays, inspect them for cracked, frayed, or bare wires. Worn wiring can shock you or even start a fire.
- ▶ Use flashlights or battery-operated candles instead of candles with flames inside your carved pumpkins and pathway lanterns.
- ▶ Use electrical products outside only if they are designed and marked "for outdoor use."
- ▶ Plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your older home does not have them, call an electrician to upgrade your circuits before using any electrical devices outside.
- ▶ Avoid laying extension cords on the ground. Trick-or-treaters can trip on them.
- ▶ Skip the staple gun when hanging light strands or extension cords. Staples can damage cords and their insulation, which can create a fire hazard.
- ▶ Every light and lighted decoration should be approved by a testing laboratory. If you don't see the label on the product, don't buy it.

Turn off your decorations before turning in for the night or leaving your house.

## Do We Have Your 911 Address?

Lake Region Electric Cooperative requests that all members update their account information with their proper "911" (physical) address as well as telephone number.

This will help the cooperative update our mapping software, making our information more accurate and assist the cooperative in finding your residence if service is needed. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments. Call LREC at (918) 772-2526 or 800-364-LREC.



LREC mapping software

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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

Hulbert, Wagoner &  
 Tahlequah, OK.

### Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127  
 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.