



What's Inside

Page 3

"Online payment and billing with Smarthub"

Page 4

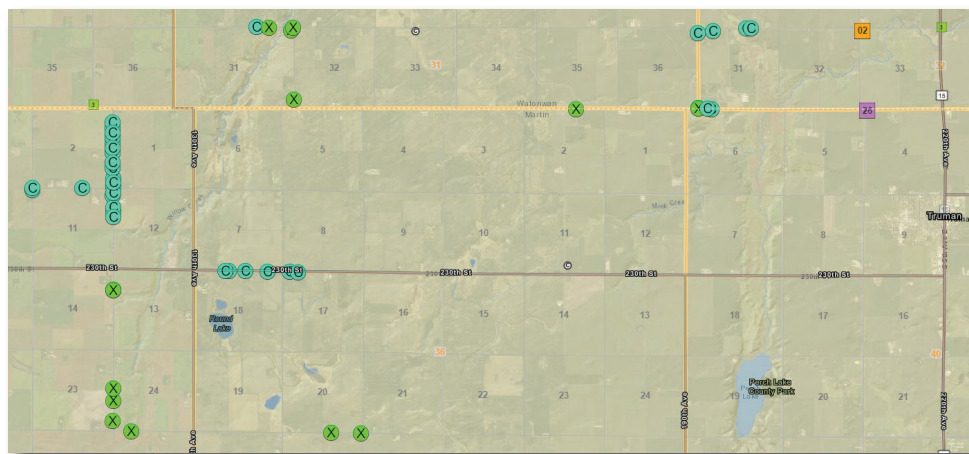
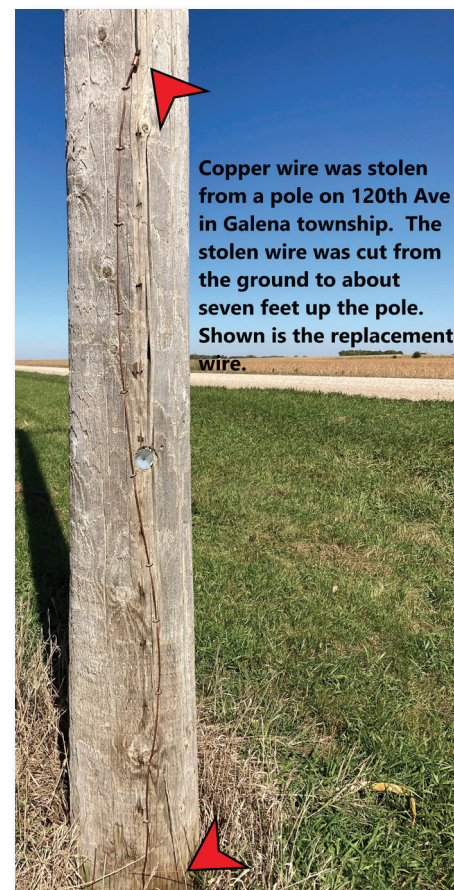
"4th Graders Learn About Electric"

November 2021

Copper Stolen from South Central Electric Poles

The South Central Electric system east of Ormsby was hit by copper thieves. The thief or thieves were stealing the copper ground wire off poles from the ground to about seven feet up the pole. The hardest hit area was east of Ormsby on 120th Ave in Galena township.

While the salvage value of the copper isn't much, the cost to South Central is much higher. So far (October 4), we have found 49 poles with missing wire. The estimated cost to replace the wire is about \$6,100.00. The Martin County Sheriff's department is investigating the theft.



Copper thieves removed copper ground wire from poles east of Ormsby. As of October 4th South Central identified 49 poles. Each mark on the map is a location that copper was stolen.

Please complete your check payments.

We have been receiving checks that are not completed. Please verify your checks are completely filled out before mailing with your bill.



Update your life-support member listing with us

For family members or friends with a medical condition electricity is a lifeline for their medical equipment.

Your local electric co-op likes to know about any members who are on life-support equipment, such as:

- ♦ oxygen concentrators
- ♦ respirators
- ♦ home dialysis or
- ♦ other life-threatening conditions.



Your electric cooperative maintains this list for two reasons. First, in case of a planned outage where crews will work on the lines, the co-op tries to inform these members before the outage. Secondly, during an unplanned outage, priority is given to restore power to these members with such medical equipment.

If you haven't notified your local electric co-op, please complete this coupon and return it to us with your next bill payment. Otherwise, e-mail, fax or mail the information right away. In addition, if the person with the medical condition moves off the co-op's system, no longer needs life support or has passed away, please inform the co-op so our list stays current.

____ **Yes, I'm on life support equipment OR**

____ **Please remove**
from the co-op's life support list

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Phone number _____

Your location number (as found on your electric bill)

Type of life support equipment or medical condition:

Battery backup? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how long will the batteries last? _____

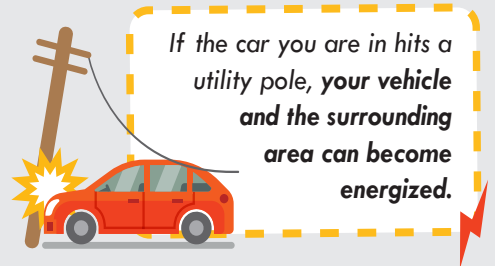
Is there a generator on site for backup electricity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return this coupon to your local electric co-op with your next bill payment. Otherwise, e-mail, fax or mail it right away.
Thanks! (11/2020)

KNOW WHAT TO DO



**if in an Auto Accident
with Power Lines**



**Even if you do not touch lines
or equipment, you can still be
killed or seriously injured.**



1. Do NOT leave the car,
and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have
the utility notified.



3. Wait until a utility professional
has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason
to exit the vehicle is
if it's on fire.

**If the car is on fire, jump clear
of the vehicle: with feet together,
and without touching the car and
the ground at the same time.**



Continue to **hop away**
with your **feet together**
as far as you can.



Learn more at

**Safe
Electricity.org**

SCEA Water Heater Program

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program. The cost for water heaters is \$500. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



South Central Electric 2021 REBATE PROGRAMS

Recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

Appliance Rebates: Please see rebate applications for details.

MUST BE AN ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE TO QUALIFY.



Dehumidifier \$20 Credit applied to the energy bill
Air Source Heat Pumps..... \$500 - \$800
Ductless Heat Pump \$500 - \$800
Ground Source Heat Pump..... \$400/ton
Air Conditioner Tune Up \$30
Managed Electric Heat..... \$20/kW
 Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage. Stored or dual fuel heat.
 Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.



Commercial and Industrial Rebates: Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

ONLINE PAYMENT AND BILLING WITH SMARTHUB

Members can now pay their bills on-line with South Central Electric's new on-line bill payment system; SmartHub. You can even download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet.

To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.

Once you're signed up, you can:

- Pay your bill immediately with a secure on-line payment.
- View monthly electric usage and history.
- Manage account information and track payment history from mobile devices or the web.
- Submit meter readings.
- Receive emails regarding bills.
- Sign up for automatic payments.

For your mobile device or tablet download the free "SmartHub" app from the APP Store or Google Play.



Area 4th Graders Learn About Electric Safety

The start of school brings an annual event for area 4th graders; attending field and safety days. The Cottonwood County Extension office coordinate the big event with safety and education programs. South Central Electric and East River Electric provided electric safety and education demonstrations. The program takes place at the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton. During the three day event South Central Electric's safety outreach was seen by over 550 area 4th graders.



Wherever energy is needed, the grid is there

Whenever you flip a switch, plug in your phone or open your refrigerator, you're relying on the grid to bring you reliable electricity. Cooperatives like South Central Electric put a lot of time and effort into providing electricity when you need it.

At the most basic level, the electric grid is a set of interconnected wires connecting places where energy is produced to where it is used. Over time, the grid has become smarter, more dynamic and more interconnected with advancements in technology along with additional wind and solar energy resources.

Great River Energy, one of our wholesale electric providers, uses the grid to move electrons and information to ensure reliable electric service. This fast transmission of energy and information makes for a quick response time.

But how does the grid work?

Electricity from power plants and wind farms travels along high voltage transmission lines to the places where it can be "stepped down" and used. Specialized transformers reduce the electric energy down to a lower voltage making it suitable for high-volume delivery over short distances.

Power lines belonging to South Central Electric carry electricity to smaller transformers that reduce power to levels appropriate for use at schools, farms, small businesses and homes.

For homeowners and businesses that have installed solar panels, wind turbines or other generators, the grid is always there to supply energy when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

South Central Electric works with Great River Energy to ensure a resilient grid able to meet growing demand and address the complexities of integrating renewable resources.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

71176 Tiell Dr., PO Box 150
St. James, MN 56081-0150
(507) 375-3164

Outages: (888) 805-7232

E-mail address:

sce@southcentralelectric.com

Web:

www.southcentralelectric.com

Office hours:

7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors

Mark Sandberg, President

Ron Jorgenson, Vice President

Mike Miest, Secretary

Brad Asendorf, Treasurer

Brent Imker, Director

William Kunz, Director

Matt Peters, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

South Central Electric Association is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.