



April 2025

ELECTRIC MOTOR REQUIREMENTS

South Central Electric has requirements in place for electric motors connected to our system. These requirements are in place to eliminate flicker and voltage sag problems caused by member's equipment on our lines. Members need to take these requirements into account when purchasing new motors, grain drying systems or upsizing motors. The requirements are not restricted to new motors. There may be issues with currently installed equipment that exceed these limits.

MOTOR STARTING CURRENT LIMITS

1. The Cooperatives' limits allow single-phase motors up to 10HP and three-phase motors up to 30HP to be started without reducing the starting current (soft start), provided the motor design is NEMA "G" or better. Assuming NEMA Code "G" of 5.29 amps/HP and a power factor of 90% or greater.
2. Maximum Starting Current Limits
 - Single-phase 240 volt: 260 amps
 - Three-phase 208 volt: 520 amps
 - Three-phase 480 volt: 225 amps

The starting current limitations are applied to the sum of motor starting currents if multiple motors are started simultaneously.

It is the member's responsibility to know whether a "soft start" motor may be required. Motor installations outside the parameters which cause unacceptable voltage flicker or sag problems must be remedied at the expense of the member.

Harmonic Distortion from Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's)

Variable frequency drives (VFD) may cause harmonic distortion. It is the responsibility of the member to correct harmonic distortion created by on site equipment. Harmonic distortion may also occur with member owned renewable energy systems.

These requirements are in place to assure reliable and safe delivery of electricity to all our members. If you have questions please contact our office.



No Posting Zone: **POWER POLES**

Most jobs do not require you to climb 40 feet in the air and conduct business within a few feet of high voltage power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity. However, for many utility workers, this is just another day at the office.

Across the nation there are millions of utility poles that provide the electricity that powers everything in your daily life — including the brewing of your morning cup of coffee and the lighting you turn off before going to bed. The electricity we depend on would not be possible without the utility workers who maintain and repair these utility poles.

The Safe Electricity program urges everyone to keep utility poles free from all personal materials such as balloons, fliers, and metal objects like staples or tacks. By respecting utility poles, you can help keep your community powered, and your local utility workers safe.

This practice is not only illegal in many areas, but also creates hazards for the linemen who repair and maintain utility poles and other electrical infrastructure and can increase your monthly utility bill.

Utility workers use specialized climbing devices to perform regular maintenance and repair damaged power lines at the top of utility poles. Nails, tacks, and other metal objects that are used to attach objects to utility poles can interfere with the safe operation of the



climbing boots used by utility workers.

Foreign objects that are embedded in utility poles can also snag or damage the protective clothing that keeps line workers safe from electrical shock. These men and women already work in extremely hazardous conditions, so everyone who relies on electricity should take steps to make their job as safe as possible.

Other items that have been found on utility poles include tree stands for hunting. If you plan on hunting, do not place tree stands or other objects on utility poles. Doing so not only creates a risk for utility workers, but it is also extremely dangerous for yourself or anyone who uses it. For your own safety, please keep as much distance between yourself and overhead power lines as possible.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles, and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Update Phone Numbers to Help with Outage Communications

Outages can be frustrating. Help us and our after-hours call center provide better service to you during outages. During the most recent outages from the storm on March 4-5th, our call center took in over 40,000 calls from around the country. If you were to call the outage line (888-805-7232) and your correct phone number is on file, you will receive a message stating we are aware of an outage in your area. This could save you time waiting on the phone for an answer.

To update phone numbers associated with your electric service call our office (507) 375-3164 and give us the phone numbers you would like listed with your account. We suggest any number you may be calling from; landline, cell numbers and spouse numbers. Providing us with these contact numbers allows us and our after-hours call center to better serve you.





Board Chairman Ron Jorgenson presented **Director Mark Sandberg** with a watch in recognition of his 25 years of service on the South Central Electric Board.



Congratulations to Steve Sell on his retirement. Steve spent over 9 years working at South Central Electric after working for Alliant Energy. He retired with 43 years of service as a lineman. We wish Steve and his family the best in his retirement.

Protect your home & family with a Briggs & Stratton home standby generator

Estimated cost of \$9,000 to \$12,500 includes the following:

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch. ■ **Electrician installation.**

Call our office to learn more at (507) 375-3164



The 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 online at www.southcentralelectric.com.

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 (ducted)** **\$300** HSPF rating over 9.5 **\$500**
- Ductless/Mini-Split Heat Pump.....** **\$350**
- Ground Source Heat Pump.....** **\$300/ton** (Limit 10 tons)
- Air Conditioner Tune Up.....** **\$30**
- Managed Electric Heat.....** **\$20/kW**
- Radio controlled, qualifies for a discount of **\$.031/kWh** on system usage.
- Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.
- LED Yard Light.....** **\$25/ea.** limit 3

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.

Move OVER to Keep Utility Workers Safe



Electric utility employees at South Central Electric work on overhead and underground power lines, perform work at electric substations, use heavy equipment and check electric meters every day. Electricity can be extremely dangerous and is one of the biggest hazards that our employees encounter. But another big threat is traffic.

Ofentimes, utility employees must park alongside a road, turn on flashing lights and place traffic cones in the roadway as an indication to passing motorists that work is being done. Doing so creates a work zone. It's important to move over when you see flashing lights to keep our co-op workers safe. Failing to do so endangers the lives of utility workers and other emergency responders.

Minnesota's Ted Foss Move Over Law states that when traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must move one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with their flashing lights activated. Most drivers are aware of this law as it applies to police officers, firefighters and ambulances but it also applies to utility, maintenance and construction vehicles.

Working along roadways can be dangerous and moving over is the law. If it's not possible to move over one full lane, drivers are required to reduce their speed until their vehicle has completely passed the parked or stopped vehicle.

South Central Electric employees are working to ensure that our communities have reliable electric service. Please follow safe driving practices when you see them and move over so that everyone can go home safely at the end of each day.

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 **\$750**. 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.



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

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Vice President, Michael Miest

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Brent Imker, Director

Mark Sandberg, Director

Bill Kunz, 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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