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July 2015

Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption by between 5 and 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

Congratulations!
Larry Thomason
is our online
survey winner.

Happy
4th
of
July

Offices Closed

CHEC offices will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day.



Right-of-Way Crews Begin Spraying in July

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) has contracted with Progressive Solutions, LLC, to proceed with our annual brush control program on the right-of-way associated with CHEC.

Starting in July, Progressive Solutions' crews will be spraying certain areas within Sequoyah County. They will be selectively spraying the tall growing brush under the electric lines, using products that will stop the growth of brush and trees in the right-of-way.

Please note that the people spraying on your property are indeed doing work on behalf

of CHEC. Progressive Solutions' crews will walk the right-of-way, using backpack sprayers. The contractor crews' vehicles should be identified by a company name or logo on the door of their vehicle.

Progressive Solutions, LLC are responsible applicators, and the products they use are selected based on our concerns for your safety and for our environment. Their service is one of the very effective tools that we use to assure reliable electric service.

Progressive SOLUTIONS



Has Your Phone Number Changed?

Keeping your account information up-to-date is important to you as well as to CHEC.

The most common inaccurate account information is your phone number. CHEC periodically calls members to notify you of a controlled outage, billing information, and other important information. If your phone number has changed, if you have disconnected your home phone, or if you have a new cell phone number, please contact us.

Please take the time to update your account information by visiting our website at www.cooksonhills.com and logging onto SmartHub, or call your local office at 800-328-2368 (Stigler) or at 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).



UPDATE
YOUR CONTACT INFO



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters Office
PO Box 539 • 1002 E. Main
Stigler, OK 74462
800-328-2368

Branch Office
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive
Sallisaw, OK 74955
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937
www.cooksonhills.com



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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

Felicia Williams, *Editor*
E-Mail: fwilliams@cooksonhills.com



If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*, You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

Are you using SmartHub?

CHEC offers the latest technology to help you manage your electric account 24/7 by computer, smartphone, or tablet with a free application called SmartHub. SmartHub is an application that is available in both mobile apps and a web version.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Make a secure payment
- Check your daily or hourly electric usage
- Notify member services of account issues
- Receive alerts by email
- Communicate directly with your cooperative
- View bills
- See payment history
- Set up recurring payments
- Report outages



The web version has a profile page available for members to maintain their personal information, password, and security phrase. Go to our website www.cooksonhills.com to register your accounts.

The mobile apps can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile phone or tablet. Simply look for "SmartHub" in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. If duplicates appear, look for the app provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app is free to download and install.

Members making payments through SmartHub will be charged a \$3.95 convenience fee.

If you aren't using SmartHub, consider starting today. SmartHub is a convenient method of payment and communication. If you have any questions concerning SmartHub, please contact your local office at 800-328-2368 (Stigler) or 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).

LINEMEN RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

CHEC employees Marty Huff and Blu Cloud recently earned Journeyman Lineman certification. Marty and Blu completed the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAE) Journeyman Lineman training program. They completed four years of classroom and on-the-job training to receive the certification. The program meets both national and state certification requirements. CHEC would like to congratulate Marty and Blu on completing the journeyman lineman training.



Marty Huff and Blu Cloud

Photo by: Danna Rhodes

Stay Safe Exploring the Great Outdoors this Summer

By Abby Berry

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, CHEC reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help 1902400 you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spent time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote controlled airplanes in large open areas like a

park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you’re caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!



Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Your child's life jacket can't save her from electric shock drowning.

Education can.



Poor boat and dock wiring may create hazards that can electrocute swimmers, boaters, and people on the dock. They should be maintained and inspected often by professionals. Prepare for a safe summer on the water.

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 


The danger cannot be seen. It can be silently lurking within the water where kids swim. Electricity from boats plugged into shore power can leak into the water if not properly equipped and maintained.



Cut, Detach, and Return.

COOKSON HILLS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
1002 East Main • P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Complete this survey for a chance to win
1 - \$100 bill credit or one of 4 - \$25 credits!**
**Your comments and information will only be used by
CHEC. Understanding our members helps us serve you better.
We appreciate your input!**
You may also go online to complete. Simply go to:
www.coopstats.com/cookson2015
Deadline for entry August 15, 2015

Account number: (as it appears on your bill)

Name: (as it appears on your bill)

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Your Home

- Do you own or rent your home? Own Rent
- How many square feet of living space do you have?
 Less than 1,000 1,500 - 1,999 2,500 - 2,999
 1,000 - 1,499 2,000 - 2,499 3,000 or more
- Approximately when was your home built?
 Before 1970 1980-1989 2000-2004 After 2009
 1970-1979 1990-1999 2005-2009
- Which best describes your account?
 Single family residence Farm
 Multi-family: apt/condo/duplex Vacation or seasonal home
 Mobile or modular home Non-residence
- What fuel does your water heater use?
 Electricity Propane Natural gas Other
- Approximately what year was your water heater installed?
 Before 1990 1995-1999 2005-2009
 1990-1994 2000-2004 After 2009
- What size is your water heater (in gallons)?
 20-29 40-49 60-69 80+
 30-39 50-59 70-79 Tankless
- What is your home's main source of heat?
 Electricity Propane Other
 Natural gas Wood
- How many refrigerators or freezers are in use in your home?
 1 2 3 or more None
- Do you have access to propane or natural gas?
 Yes No

Your Cooperative

- How satisfied are you overall with Cookson Hills Electric? (1 is not at all satisfied and 5 is very satisfied)
 1 2 3 4 5
- Do you have Internet access?
 Yes No (skip to #16)
- If yes, have you ever visited our website www.cooksonhills.com?
 Yes No

- On the co-op's website, what features would you most likely read or use? (check all that apply)
 Online account access Read co-op publication
 Learn about co-op programs Buy products/services
 Pay bill online Submit service requests
- Do you use social media?
 Yes No
- How often do you read the cooperative's newsletter, "Hot Watts?"
 Always Sometimes Rarely Never
- How often do you read the "Oklahoma Living" Newspaper you receive each month?
 Always Sometimes Rarely Never
- Do you use any of these bill payment options currently offered by Cookson Hills Electric? (all that apply)
 Automatic bank draft Fire department billing
 Levelized billing Online bill payment
 Automatic credit or debit card draft Prepaid (Pay-as-you-go)
 Kiosk payment
- Do you use our SmartHub feature?
 Yes No (skip to #21)
- If yes, what method do you use to access it?
 Website Smartphone Tablet

Other Information

- How many people live in your household?
 1 2 3 4 5 6+
- Into which category does your age fall?
 Under 25 35-44 55-64 75+
 25-34 45-54 65-74
- Which best describes your occupation?
 White collar (office, retail, sales) Blue collar (manufacturing, construction, transportation)
 Agriculture (farmer, rancher, livestock, crops, etc.) Professional (advanced degree or training)
 Unemployed/disabled Retired

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