

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



May 2007

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From the Manager... Touchstone Energy

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has joined the ranks of consumer-owned electric utilities across the country as a Touchstone Energy® cooperative.

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide branding alliance that complements the local connection cooperatives have with their member-owners while providing the resources of a vast, integrated network of cooperatives.

Touchstone Energy represents more than 600 cooperatives in 44 states that collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 16 million customers every day.

The program communicates the unique qualities of a cooperative to business and residential customers, reinforcing the dedication that co-ops have to serving member-owners with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. By overseeing national marketing and communications campaigns, employee education programs and numerous events and projects that help co-ops strengthen and cultivate relationships with business and residential customers nationwide, Touchstone Energy ensures the benefits of consumer-owned

electric utilities are recognized.

The Touchstone Energy brand will provide a distinctive symbol for you to identify with, to feel a part of, and to take pride in.

It's much more than a graphic addition to our name and logo. It's a commitment to our members, saying you can count on us, as a locally based and controlled utility to deliver them with innovative, reliable, affordable energy services and to be an advocate for their energy and community needs.

The dictionary definition of touchstone is a test of genuineness. Touchstone Energy symbolizes everything that electric cooperatives represent today: electric power, human connections, and the strength of co-ops' commitment to the communities and the consumers we serve.

We'll help our members cut through all the clutter. We'll be here for our members for the long haul. If it's accountability, service and commitment to community you want, look no further than Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.



Ron Holsteen



Touchstone Energy®

Spring Means Lightning - Surge Protection is a Must

Kansas always seems to have plenty of lightning in the spring! Along with those storms comes the risk of damage to electric equipment in your home. The last thing you want is for your equipment or appliances to be damaged or destroyed by a power surge. Computers, TV's, stereos, refrigerators, washers, clothes dryers,

telephones and other electronic equipment require a large investment.

One of the ways you can help protect your valuable equipment is through power surge protection. A power surge is a brief unpredictable increase in voltage that can enter your home through the power, telephone or cable televi-

sion lines. A power surge can occur at any time and in any area.

Surge protection puts up guards in two places: 1) where electricity enters your home and 2) inside your home where equipment is connected to electricity through outlets. For more information about surge protection, call Twin Valley at (866) 784-5500.

Consider Electrical Hazards While Planting

Many farm workers are killed each year when their farm equipment makes contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable.

Make sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them.

The minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines.

Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contact happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Today's larger farms require transporting tractors and equipment to fields several miles away. Before transit, avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger tractors. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have antennas extending from the cab to 15 feet. Be aware that these could come in contact with power lines.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires



A primary line in northeast Kansas carrying 7,200 volts of electricity fell on this tractor when the driver came too close to the electrical pole.

anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

It's also important for operators of farm equipment to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line.

It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place.

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