



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Road, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

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Cold Weather Rule

The Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) Cold Weather Rule restricts residential electric disconnects from Nov. 1 through March 31 when temperature forecasts are below 35 degrees, as long as the consumer contacts the utility and makes alternate arrangements to pay their balance.

Electric cooperatives are not required to follow the KCC policy, and are responsible for establishing their own seasonal rules. Twin Valley Electric's Cold Weather Rule is nearly identical to KCC's rule.

Under the rules of both organizations, individuals who are unable to pay their bill and would like protection under the cold weather rule must call Twin Valley's office at 866-784-5500 to make a payment arrangement. In order to remain protected by the cold



The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

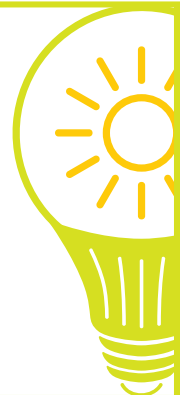
weather rule, the individual must follow through with the arrangement they agreed to.

If you want more information about our cold weather rule, or if you have questions about billing and payment options, please call our office at 866-784-5500.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



STAY SAFE
OUT ON THE

HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.



Always implement firearm safety techniques.

Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first-aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Check tree stands regularly for stability.



Be visible:
Wear blaze orange.

Hunting Kansas Safely

Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to 2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org).

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room. Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters may walk far distances while hunting and recovering an animal, which can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?

Hunters spend approximately **\$25,944,894** on Kansas hunting licenses of all types. And the total numbers of hunting licenses, tags, permits and stamps is over **468,000**, according to 2021 data compiled by stacker.com.

- ▶ Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
- ▶ Know the hunting area. Check boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.
- ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
- ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize your surroundings or cause a fire.
- ▶ Wear blaze orange.
To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Happy
Veterans Day

NOV. 11, 2022

— HONORING ALL WHO SERVED —



Empower Children to Stay Safe Outdoors

According to the National Institutes of Health, electricity causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries in the United States each year, 20% of which occur in children. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

- ▶ Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call the electrical utility for help if a lost pet or toy finds its way into a substation.
- ▶ Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines, and if they see one, ask them to notify an adult. The utility company will send a professional to assist.
- ▶ Children should never play with, climb on or open pad-mounted transformers or outdoor electrical "green" boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact the utility.
- ▶ While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.
- ▶ Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at

least 30 minutes after the last observed clap of thunder or lightning bolt to play outside.

- ▶ If enjoying the outdoors near water, such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.
- ▶ Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should only be used in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

for kids

Share these **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS** with children and teens to help keep them safe.



1 DO NOT climb or sit on green boxes or other electrical equipment.



2 STAY AWAY from electrical equipment marked "keep out," "high voltage" or "danger."



3 NEVER ENTER the fenced area around a substation to retrieve an item or pet.



4 FLY kites, remote-control devices and drones FAR AWAY from overhead power lines.



Try Electric Radiant Floor Heat for Room Additions

BY JIM DULLEY

Dear Jim: We are adding a family room and a bedroom to our house. We are considering electric radiant floor heating. Is it costly to operate and does it work well with carpeting? ANNE V.

Dear Anne: Electric radiant floor heating is one type of electrical resistance heating. Resistance heating is typically the most expensive to operate, but electric radiant floor heating is the exception. In addition to keeping your feet toasty warm, it offers advantages over forced air heating systems such as gas/oil furnaces and heat pumps.

Since there will be no ducts in your new rooms, consider adding a small mini-split ductless air-conditioning system for summer cooling. For just slightly more initial cost, install a heat pump model. This can also be used to heat the rooms during mild spring and fall weather.

Although it is most often used for concrete and tile flooring, electric radiant floor heating can also be used under carpeting, hardwood and laminate flooring. Each type of flooring requires a different design of heating materials. All of them are typically less expensive to install than a standard ducted heating system.

The primary advantage of radiant floor heating is improved comfort. As most people sense when your feet are warm, you feel warm all over. This benefit of radiant heating allows most people to set the room air temperature significantly lower and still be comfortable. Anytime the thermostat is set lower, less energy is needed to keep the room warm.

With the low intensity heat arising from the floor and less air movement, there is less heat stratification in the room. This means less hot air ends up collecting at the ceiling



This electric floor radiant heating kit has the heating cable spaced properly in an easy-to-use mesh. This is ideal for tile floor applications.

and more air ends up closer to the floor where people are. There is also less dust and fewer particles floating in the room.

Most room additions are done over a concrete slab, so installing electric heating cable is effective and a relatively simple project. The electric heating cable is usually placed in a serpentine pattern and then covered with thinset or other floor leveling material. The thermal mass of the slab yields even heating, but the temperature reacts slowly to wall thermostat changes.

The above installation technique is also common in bathrooms and kitchens where ceramic tile is used for the flooring surface. The radiant floor heating system manufacturer can do calculations to determine how much cable you will need for your climate and size room. Many of the radiant floor heating systems are designed for do-it-yourself installation.

When installing under carpeting, hardwood or laminate flooring, the heating cables are installed in rolls of fiberglass mesh and are easily interconnected. Contact the flooring material manufacturer to make sure the maximum heating mesh temperature does not exceed the maximum allowable for the flooring material.

WarmlyYours provides a do-it-yourself electric radiant floor heating kit with heating wires in foil. It is wafer-thin and ideal for use between carpet padding and the carpet. Heatizon offers a kit with thin mesh that is stapled to the subflooring. It is low-voltage making it very safe for simple installation.

Send inquiries to **JAMES DULLEY, Kansas Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244** or visit www.dulley.com.

COMPANIES OFFERING ELECTRIC RADIANT FLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS:

- ▶ **CALORIQUE** 800-922-9276
www.calorique.com
- ▶ **HEATIZON** 888-239-1232
www.heatizon.com
- ▶ **SUNTOUCH** 888-432-8932
www.suntouch.com
- ▶ **WARMLYYOURS** 800-875-5285
www.warmlyyours.com



Electric radiant heating cable/mesh is placed on a kitchen floor before the ceramic tile is installed. The manufacturer can advise about how much is needed for the room size.