



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Your Co-op is a Catalyst for Good



Angie Erickson

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets coop-

eratives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart because it's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission, helping our consumer-members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reli-

able energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission — to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round-Up program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help provide food for many children in the area. Or our youth programs, including the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp where youth learn about the cooperative business model and build leadership skills.

We also have a strong commitment to safety — not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools as we are able to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings. Although we haven't been able to do many demonstrations this year due to the pandemic, we are hoping to continue this education as it is safe to do so.

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Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!



Your Co-op is a Catalyst for Good Continued from page 16B ▶

Twin Valley Electric invests in the economic development of the community by facilitating loans to new small businesses and by participating in Altamont's Hometown Economic Leadership Program. We've made our meeting space available for community meetings and events.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, or volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is — after all, without our consumer-members, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you, whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times, please reach out to us at 866-784-5500.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.

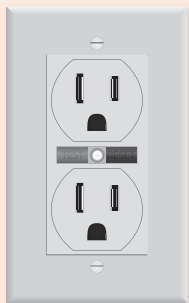
HUNTER SAFETY around electricity



Before taking a shot from your hunting blind, always look up and around you. Know where power lines and equipment are located. Never place deer stands on utility poles. Energized lines and equipment can cause shock or electrocution if anyone makes contact.

5 Electrical Safety Features to Be Thankful For

Most days, we go about our lives without thinking too much about the many electronic gadgets and electrical safety features that allow us to perform simple tasks at work and home without a second thought. This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.



For Your Safety: Built-In Devices

GFCIS: Ground fault circuit interrupters are inexpensive electrical devices that can either be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord to protect you from severe electrical shocks. GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

AFCIS: Arc fault circuit interrupters could potentially prevent more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These safety devices are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

CIRCUIT BREAKERS: Usually found in a garage, basement or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes are an essential safety feature in your home, preventing electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with individual circuit breakers designed to 'trip,' or shut itself off when necessary to stop the flow of electricity. Circuits trip for

several reasons, including overloaded circuits, drawing too much power from one circuit, ground faults, abnormal flow in a circuit, and short circuits when current travels along an unintended path.

Use Them Safely: Convenience Items

DEVICE CHARGERS: Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing our favorite cell phone, tablet, laptop or other portable essentials. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly. Here are some safety tips:

- ▶ Personal electronic devices should NOT be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
- ▶ Do not leave cords plugged in when not in use because little ones or pets who put them in their mouths can get burned or shocked.
- ▶ Do not leave them around when not in use because toddlers might try to insert the

wrong end into an electrical outlet and get shocked or burned. Remember to childproof your outlets as well if they are not the tamper-resistant versions.

- ▶ Don't use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
- ▶ Replace original charging components with the same brand and type whenever possible. Using off-brand or generic versions can be dangerous if they are faulty.

EXTENSION CORDS AND MULTI-OUTLET POWER STRIPS: Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips or devices, while incredibly handy, should always be inspected for damage prior to use. Use them as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution, and use them safely:

- ▶ Plug them directly into an outlet, and not into another extension cord or power strip.
- ▶ If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
- ▶ Never use an item that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- ▶ Make sure these convenience items (cords and strips) are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like UL.
- ▶ When using an extension cord, make sure the wattage rating of the cord and the appliance match.

These are just a few electrical safety items to be thankful for this year.