

July 2018

Know the Difference between Electrical Fact and Myth

When it comes to electricity, you have to know the facts. It might save your life one day. Here are some common electrical myths proven false:

- **Myth:** Once a line is down, it is dead.

Fact: The electric current does not always turn off when a power line is down. Even if lines do not show signs of life (arcing, smoking, popping), they can still hold dangerous electrical current. Always treat a downed wire as energized because there is no way for you to know by looking whether it is hot or not. Just always stay away, and keep others away.

- **Myth:** All power lines are insulated.

Fact: Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating on the lines is actually for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current. Even if a power line is insulated, it can crack due to weather reducing its safety. No matter the case, it is never safe to touch a power line.

- **Myth:** There is no need to worry about power lines when digging a hole.

Fact: Always call 811 before you dig to have a professional come to your home and locate buried public utility lines free of charge. No matter the size of a digging project, if you come into contact with a buried power line, you could be electrocuted or seriously injured.

- **Myth:** It is safe to work around a power line at home as long as direct contact is not made.

Fact: Always keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines. This goes for ladders, pool skimmers, pruning poles, and any other equipment. Always be aware of where power lines are so you do not risk electric shock. If you are trimming trees or attempting any do-it-yourself project near power lines, always call professionals for the job.

- **Myth:** It is safe to remove the third prong from a plug.

Fact: The third prong is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution. That prong grounds the electrical current. If the



outlet is only fit for a two prong plug, replace the outlet with a three prong or a GFCI outlet.

- **Myth:** Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.

Fact: If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires do not keep you from being injured by the electricity. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current, so while you remain in the car, you are safe. The moment you step out of the car, you are the path to ground and in danger. If you find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or power lines have fallen, stay in the car and warn others to stay away. Wait for a utility crew to cut the power. Only exit the car if it is on fire. Make sure to not touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump from the car, keeping your feet together, and hop away from the scene.

To learn more, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Sudden Wind Storm Brings Outages

The hot Memorial Day turned even hotter for some after a sudden thunderstorm brought high winds that took down transmission power lines in two locations. South Central Electric line crews were able to quickly feed affected substations from alternative directions to bring power back to most members. There were some members that had to wait longer as crews had to repair damage to South Central's distribution lines.



A sudden storm downed transmission lines south of Hwy 60 between St. James and Butterfield. The lines fell across county road 19, which had to be closed.



High winds took down transmission lines south of Hanska on Memorial Day.

ONLINE PAYMENT AND BILLING WITH SMARTHUB

Members can now pay their bills on-line with South Central Electric's new on-line bill payment system; SmartHub. You can even download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet.



To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.

Once you're signed up, you can:

- Pay your bill immediately with a secure on-line payment.
- View monthly electric usage and history.
- Manage account information and track payment history from mobile devices or the web.
- Submit meter readings.
- Receive emails regarding bills.
- Sign up for automatic payments.

For your mobile device or tablet download the free "SmartHub" app from the APP Store or Google Play.



SCEA Water Heater Program Price Increase

Due to a price increase from Rheem and increasing costs connecting the water heaters to load management equipment, effective July 1 the cost of water heaters for our peak shave program will be \$450. This is still a great value for our members as the costs of all water heaters has been increasing over the last couple of years.

All water heaters we sell must participate in our peak shave program. SCEA pays the electrician costs to wire the water heater and radio control. Members would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



Visit us along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2018 and enter for chance to win one of six grill giveaways!

FARMFEST 2018 • AUGUST 7- AUGUST 9 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

You must be a member one of the participating electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.



South Central Electric

2018 REBATE PROGRAMS

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 on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

Appliance Rebates: Please see rebate applications for details, **MUST BE AN ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE TO QUALIFY.**

- Electric Clothes Dryer\$25 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Dehumidifier.....\$15 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Purchase new Refrigerator and recycle old refrigerator.....\$75 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Purchase new Freezer and recycle old freezer.....\$75 Credit applied to the energy bill

- Air Source Heat Pumps**..... \$400.00
 - Ductless Heat Pump** \$400.00
 - Ground Source Heat Pump**..... \$400.00/ton
 - Air Conditioner Tune Up**..... \$30.00
 - Managed Electric Heat**..... \$20.00/kW
- Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage. Stored or dual fuel heat.
Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.

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.



Going the Extra Mile

Did you know electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer and acquire less revenue than other types of electric utilities?

Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue (per mile of line), electric co-ops always go the extra mile, maintaining a tried-and-true record of delivering safe, reliable electric service to the members they serve.

South Central Electric
Number of consumers served: **2.4 per mile of line.**



Electric Cooperatives

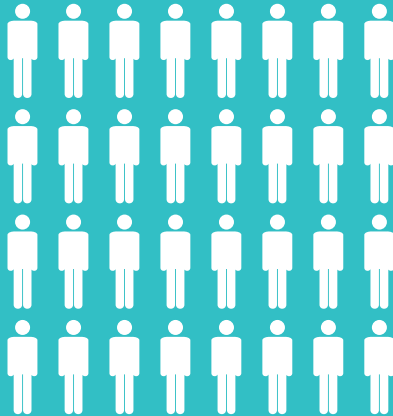
Number of consumers served: **8**



Revenue:
\$19,000

Other Electric Utilities

Number of consumers served: **32**



Revenue:
\$79,000

*Sources: EIA, 2016 data.
Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.*

Even among electric cooperatives there are some big differences when looking at electrical services per mile of line. While the national average among electric cooperatives is eight consumers per mile of line, South Central Electric has an average of 2.4 consumers per mile of line. Out of that 2.4 many of those consumers of electricity are livestock or farm operations in which no one lives.

Welcome

South Central Electric welcomes our newest employee, Susan Bottin. She joins SCE as a customer service representative. Susan, her husband Dan and two children live near Godahl. If you hear a new friendly voice when calling our office, give Susan a warm welcome.



South Central Electric, Basin Electric and CoBank Support Local 4-H

The Watonwan, Martin and Cottonwood County 4-H organizations each received \$3,000 in donations from South Central Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and CoBank. It started as a \$1,000 donation from South Central Electric to each of the county 4-H chapters. South Central Electric applied for and received matching funds from Basin Electric, a South Central Electric power supplier and CoBank, a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America.

South Central Electric's donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. The response from the bank's customers was overwhelmingly positive and the bank has renewed the program each year since. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided over \$25 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is based in Bismarck, ND. Basin provides electric generation and transmission to electric cooperatives in 9 states. Its Charitable Giving Program offers matching funds for donations member systems give to local organizations.

Supporting the communities they serve is an important part of the cooperative culture. The three cooperatives believe strongly in helping our rural communities be a better place to live.



Watonwan, Cottonwood and Martin County 4-H coordinators each receive \$3,000 in donations from South Central Electric, Basin Electric and CoBank for their county 4-H organizations.

Visit us at the Watonwan County Fair July 19 through the 22nd and register for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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Web:

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Office hours:

Monday through Friday

May 1 – September 30: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

October 1 – April 30: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors

Mark Sandberg, President

Ron Jorgenson, Vice President

Brent Imker, Secretary

Mike Miest, Treasurer

Brad Asendorf, Director

William Kunz, Director

Matt Peters, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

**Starting May 1
office hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

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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**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**