



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**HEADLINER**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>David Mueller</b> Tampa, President	<b>James Christopher</b> Falun, Director
<b>Sheila Hummel</b> Hope, Vice President	<b>Randy Cooper</b> Gypsum, Director
<b>Bruce Spare</b> Assaria, Secretary	<b>Ken Hedberg</b> Marquette, Director
<b>Kenneth Berry</b> Minneapolis, Director	<b>Mike Richards</b> Solomon, Director
<b>David Butler</b> Junction City, Director	

#### STAFF

<b>Timothy J. Power</b> CEO	<b>Marla Marshall</b> CFO
<b>Tracy Turner</b> Operations Manager	<b>Derrick Rutherford</b> Communications Manager

#### OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

#### PAYMENT LOCATIONS


**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN  
WALMART SUPERCENTER**  
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441  
**FARMERS STATE BANK**  
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

#### OUTAGE INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL  
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

#### FIND OUT MORE

 [facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative](https://facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative)

 @DSOElectricCoop

## 2025 Board Election Results

Directors  
**MIKE RICHARDS**,  
Central District,  
and **JIM  
CHRISTOPHER**,  
West District,  
were deemed  
elected, as there  
were no other  
members seeking  
the positions.

Director  
nominees are **NOT** listed on the ballot  
per **BYLAWS SECTION 3.05 VOTING** —  
If the number of qualified candidates  
nominated by petition for election as  
a director in each district or at large is  
less than or equal to the number of



**Mike Richards**  
CENTRAL DISTRICT



**Sheila Hummel**  
EAST DISTRICT



**Jim Christopher**  
WEST DISTRICT

vacancies in each district or at-large,  
then the election of directors shall  
automatically be dispensed with and  
the nominees shall be deemed elected.

**SHEILA HUMMEL** was elected by the  
members to represent the East District.



## SUMMER IS COMING

PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

### Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

## SAVE MONEY! Sign Up for the Interruptible Rate

Do you want a lower electric bill? If so, then the interruptible rate may be right for you!

For the past seven years, DSO has offered a residential interruptible rate. Here are some of the details of the rate:

- ▶ This rate is designed to save you money. You no longer need to worry about using electricity during the Red Zone, when kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges are higher. Your rate will stay at the lower kWh charge for the entire year. You will also receive an incentive for allowing DSO to turn off your power. Last year, the average member on this rate saved nearly \$200, due to the combination of the lower kWh charges and incentives.
- ▶ DSO will turn off power to your house on Peak Alert days, which are the days most likely to set a peak for usage (i.e., usually the hottest days). Specifically, DSO may turn off power from 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday, during the months of July and August. For

planning purposes, you can anticipate 14 shut off events per year, but that number could vary. It mostly depends on hot weather.

- ▶ At least 30 minutes prior to shutting off your power, DSO will send you notice by text and/or email to the number and/or email address you provide. In most cases, we will provide you with many hours of notice.
- ▶ You will receive a bill credit of \$10 for each day we turn off your power, provided you were using power when we turned it off.

For more information on this rate, please visit [www.dsoelectric.com](http://www.dsoelectric.com) and select "About Us" on the menu, then "Rates", and then "R-I-24."

Because this is a voluntary rate, you must request to be put on this rate. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please call the DSO office at 800-376-3533 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to visit with a member services representative.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year — or more often if there are pets in the home. When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten its lifespan. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



### TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, slow down and take your time before acting. Scammers often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the information by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

SOURCE: UTILITIES UNITED AGAINST SCAMS



# 11 Electrical Safety Tips for Seniors

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association. As we age, our reflexes slow down, eyesight decreases and senses become less acute, making it essential to take extra precautions when handling electrical appliances.

## HERE ARE 11 WAYS FOR OLDER ADULTS TO MAINTAIN A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT:

- 1** Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition. Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.
- 2** Don't overload sockets or extension cords. Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk.
- 3** Limit the use of carpets and rugs, which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. For a safer and more permanent solution, consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.
- 4** Unplug appliances when not in use and before cleaning or repairing them.
- 5** Keep electrical appliances away from water and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.
- 6** Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.
- 7** Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home, especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms for better visibility.
- 8** Set water heaters to lower settings to prevent scalding.
- 9** When cooking on the stove, never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety and convenience. This

feature is designed to turn off the appliance automatically after a set amount of time or when a task is completed, reducing the risk of overheating or fire.

**10** Use space heaters with caution. Space heaters can offer added warmth to a senior, who may get cold due to circulation issues that are common with aging. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least 3 feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.

**11** Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms. Test and replace the batteries twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall.

**BONUS TIP:** If someone in the home uses a medical device that requires electricity, have a backup power source ready in case of a power outage and be sure to alert your local electric utility.

By following these safety measures, seniors can significantly reduce their risk of electrical accidents. Family members and caregivers can assist older adults in implementing these precautions to ensure their homes are safe and comfortable.

## DOWNED POWER LINE & Vehicle Safety

When electric equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized. Know what to do to **SAVE YOUR LIFE** and the lives of others.

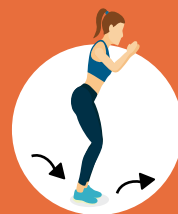
### IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POWER LINE:

- ▶ **Stay Inside the Vehicle:** The ground may be energized.
- ▶ **Call 911:** Report downed or damaged lines.
- ▶ **Warn Others:** Tell bystanders to stay away.
- ▶ **Wait for Utility Crew:** Do not exit until it's safe.



### IF YOU NOTICE SMOKE OR FIRE:

- ▶ **Exit Safely:** Cross arms over your chest and jump out with both feet together. Do not touch the car and the ground at the same time.
- ▶ **Move Away:** Shuffle or bunny hop with feet together. Get as far away as you can.

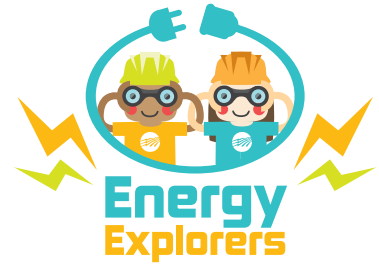


SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

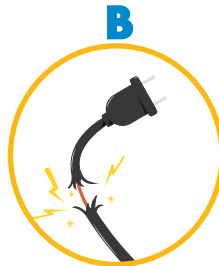
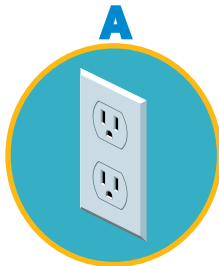
# CAN YOU SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD?

Electricity is essential for everyday life, but when combined with seemingly harmless items or elements, it can create a hazardous situation. View the grouped items below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create a potential electrical hazard.

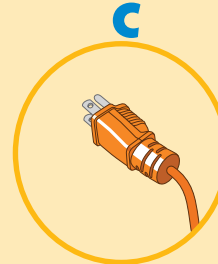
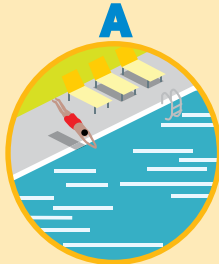
Check your work in the answer key below.



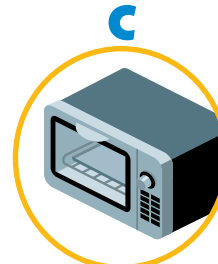
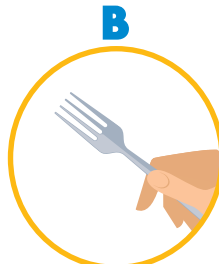
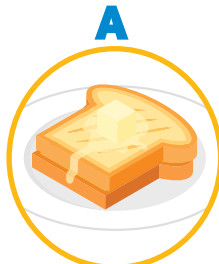
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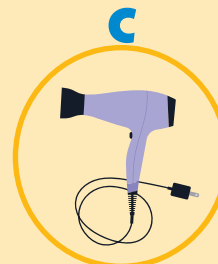
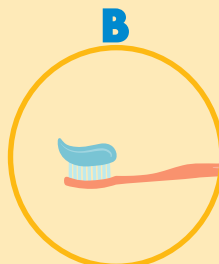
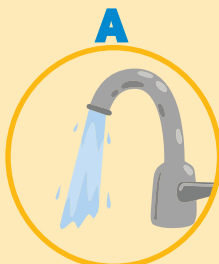
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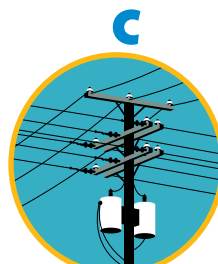
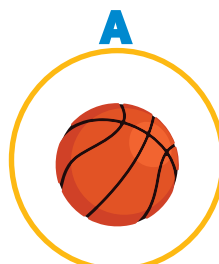
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4



5



Answer Key  
1.a,b  
2.a,c  
3.b,c  
4.a,c  
5.b,c