


# Western Cooperative Electric NEWS

**WESTERN  
COOPERATIVE  
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Let Us Give Thanks

For the open doors of churches and faith of men and women who sit inside with bowed heads.

For the comfort to be found in daily things – in an uncensored newspaper, a cup of hot coffee, the cleansing foam of a soapy bath.

For the deep, rich smell of soil upturned, and for rough hands that know the feel of earth.

For warm windows in little towns, protecting the faces of people sleeping and for the peace that old folks find in twilight.

For friendship and laughter shared; and for pain that passes, leaving the mind clean-washed.

For the compassion that will save the earth someday, when men and women can no longer support the knowledge that there are children who lie down at night and hunger for food.

For houses lived in and loved, for the silent ties between family members, and for the love of mothers for small children with dirty faces.

For work to be done and strength to do it.

For all this we give thanks.

## No Pole Attachments, Please

As fall harvest nears an end, too often Western's crews find electric fences attached to Western's poles. Other attachments often include clotheslines, signs and barbed wire.

This creates a very hazardous situation for Western's linemen who must climb these poles.

If the climbing spikes, known as gaffs, on the lineman's boots hit a metal nail or tack, it could cause him to fall and possibly severely injure himself.

Nails and tacks in poles can create holes in a lineman's rubber



Barbed wire attached to a power pole on Western's system can be hazardous to our linemen.

gloves. Even a tiny pin hole in a rubber glove makes it totally ineffective and could cause the lineman to become electrocuted.



**Above:** Fencing this close to a power pole can be dangerous for linemen as they climb the pole to make repairs.

**Left:** Nails and tacks from signs can create a hole in the lineman's rubber gloves, which can cause the lineman to be electrocuted.

# No Pole Attachments, continued

Attaching fence wire is prohibited and placing fence posts alongside an electric utility pole is also not recommended.

Safety codes dictate that Western cannot let members attach wiring systems to Western's poles.

**This includes electric fence wire.**

Please realize that many times when Western's linemen are on outages, it is dark and may be raining or snowing. It's hard to see what is on a pole and normally the truck spotlights are shining at the



Safety codes also dictate that you cannot attach your own wiring system to Western's poles. Including electric fence wire shown above.

top of the pole, not toward the bottom. When the linemen find a problem and prepare to climb the pole, they can't see nails on the pole.

In view of these safety considerations, Western's staff will notify mem-

bers of any unsafe attachments to our poles and ask that they be removed immediately. If you know of any unsafe attachments, please remove them, instead of waiting to be contacted. For the safety of Western's linemen, we appreciate your assistance in this matter.

## Energy Efficiency = Proper Insulation

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors – wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your

cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. When calculating the R-value of a multi-layered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists.

Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

## Standby Generator Maintenance

The winter months are now upon us, Western's distribution system will once again be subject to weather related power outages. For this reason, we are suggesting you give your standby generator a check before an outage occurs.

Below are a few suggestions you should put on your maintenance list.

- Start and run your generator on a regular basis under a load.
- When sitting idle, cover the generator, as dust and dirt are not good friends to the electrical wiring of the generator.
- If your generator does not have gauges, have your output voltage checked as to not damage any equipment or appliances being run during the outage time.
- If your generator is engine driven, the engine requires normal maintenance at regular intervals, ranging from engine oil to air cleaner to battery maintenance.
- When your standby generator is your power supplier, make sure not to exceed the kW rating or total watts the generator can produce.
- Have an electrician examine your existing wiring and make a double throw safety switch check to make sure all connections are secured and safe!