

www.4riverselectric.com  
620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395

Northern District  
2731 Milo Terr.  
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District  
9346 Jewell Road  
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center  
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B  
Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# CURRENTS

# 4 RIVERS

## Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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President

**Robert Harkrader**  
Vice President

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Secretary

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*4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Help Us Celebrate National Cooperative Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. Cooperatives nationwide are also celebrating National Co-op Month.

When 4 Rivers celebrates Co-op Month, we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op would not exist without our consumer-members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. Concern for Community is one of Seven Cooperative Principles that all co-ops share.

Just as the power lines run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions — because being a co-op

means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

4 Rivers works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we are local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We are proud to support local youth through leadership programs, such as the Co-op Youth Tour and lineworker scholarships. With your help, our Quarter Quest program provides food assistance to our community's most vulnerable children. We support area 4-H programs, student athletes and events, as well as community festivals and

*Continued on page 12D ►*



Dennis Svanes



4 Rivers trustees and employees volunteer to serve the community at a tailgate cookout before a high school football game in Fredonia.

PHOTO ABOVE "AUTUMNAL EQUINOX SUNSET" WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER MICHAEL HOAG OF WAVERLY. THE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY.

## Board Districts Restructured for 2023 Election Cycle

For the 2023 election and moving forward, the articles of consolidation and 4 Rivers bylaws provide that the cooperative is to be divided into districts established by the board, who will review the districts annually for inequities (10% larger or smaller) in representation. Board policy has established those three districts as:

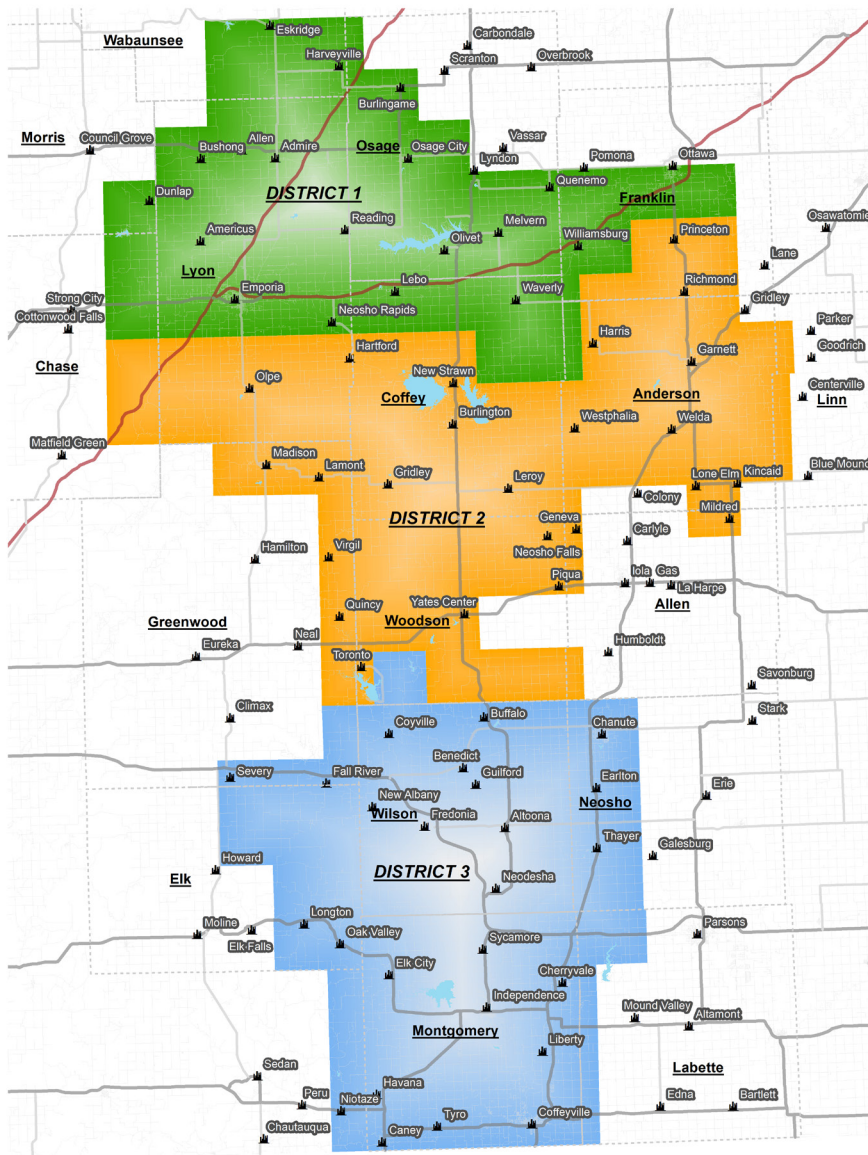
**DISTRICT 1** – Shall include Townships 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 South, from Range 9 East of the Sixth Principal Meridian (PM), through Range 20 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORLED IN GREEN**.

**DISTRICT 2** – Shall include Townships 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 South, from Range 9 East of the Sixth PM, through Range 21 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORLED IN ORANGE**.

**DISTRICT 3** – Shall include Townships 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 South, from Range 11 East of the Sixth PM, through Range 18 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORED IN BLUE**.

The 13 current trustees will serve until their current three-year terms conclude and their positions are up for election. The shifting boundaries cause some trustees to share common voting districts and election years, meaning they vie for the same trustee position should they choose to run for the board again. Eventually, there will be three trustees in each district for a total of nine trustees representing our consumer-members.

Members can find your voting district listed on your electric bill. If you have any questions about your district, please call us at 620-364-2116.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window, the window likely needs to be sealed. Visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver) to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

**SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**





# 4 Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

## October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately commonplace. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

**1 ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION.** Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be used when available.

**2 USE STRONG PASSWORDS AND A PASSWORD MANAGER.** Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

### 3 UPDATE SOFTWARE.

It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

**4 RECOGNIZE AND REPORT PHISHING ATTACKS.** Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org) for additional cybersecurity tips.



## Photo Contest for Co-op Month

To celebrate Co-op Month we are having a photo contest to highlight 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative's beautiful service territory. Enter the contest at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com) or send your entry to [austin.birk@4riverselectric.com](mailto:austin.birk@4riverselectric.com) **BY OCT. 31, 2022.**

- ▶ Must be copyright owned by the individual person entering the image.
- ▶ Photos may include 4 Rivers employees at work, but no individual residents.
- ▶ By participating, you agree to give 4 Rivers permission to use your photos.
- ▶ Must be a consumer-member of 4 Rivers Electric.
- ▶ Include name, address and contact info with your submission.
- ▶ Photos must be taken in 4 Rivers service territory.
- ▶ Limit two photo submissions per member.

**FIRST PLACE**  
\$100 bill credit  
**SECOND PLACE**  
\$75 bill credit  
**THIRD PLACE**  
\$50 bill credit



## Don't Become ELECTRICITY'S Path to Ground

When electric utility equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized.

If you are in a situation where there could be downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire or padmount transformer (green box), know what to do to save your life and the lives of others.

### Car Accident —

- 1 Stay inside your vehicle or cab since the ground or objects could be energized.
- 2 Call 911 and report there are downed or damaged power lines or a dislodged green box.
- 3 Wait for the utility crew to arrive to de-energize the power.
- 4 Do not exit until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.



### Only Exit if the Vehicle is on Fire —

- ▶ Cross your arms over your chest and make a clean jump out.
- ▶ Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- ▶ Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- ▶ Do not return to the vehicle.



### Bystanders —

- ▶ Do not approach the scene. Call 911 for help.
- ▶ Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.



## National Co-op Month *Continued from page 12A* ▶

educational events like Old Iron Days and the Kansas KidWind Challenge. Our co-op board and employees are at the heart of our communities, volunteering as coaches, organization leaders, and supporters of non-profit groups and our youth.

In the fall, we enjoy hosting pre-game football tailgates at area high schools and visiting with community and co-op members. We will be at Olpe High School stadium on Friday, Oct. 21, serving grilled hotdogs before the Olpe Eagles play the Central Heights Vikings. I hope you can join us when we are in your area and look forward to seeing you there.

For you local shutterbugs, we are hosting our Co-op Month Photo Contest again. You may submit your contest entry at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com).

On another note, we are approaching

our 2023 election cycle for the board of trustees of 4 Rivers. Election packets, which include the petition for nomination form, will be available on our website Dec. 1. The 2023 election incorporates the new consolidated districts implemented by the board and starts reducing the number of trustees on the board. There will be an election in each of the three new districts. If you are interested in running for the board, visit [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com) for more information or call and visit with me or one of my staff. I am happy to discuss the role of the board and its importance to 4 Rivers' membership with anyone interested in learning more about their cooperative.

Mark your calendars for Oct. 21 to watch some football and enjoy a hotdog cookout with your electric cooperative.

## Encountering a Downed Power Line

Storms, fires, car accidents or animal interference are all examples of events that can damage overhead power lines, pad-mounted transformers (green boxes) or other electrical equipment. While these are not examples of everyday occurrences, it is important to know what to do if you encounter downed power lines.

(Spoiler alert. Do not do any of the following in these scenarios.) If you were in an accident involving a downed overhead power line, would you get out of the car and run? If you saw a car accident involving a downed line or damaged green box, would you run to the scene to help? If you saw a downed line across a road, would you approach it or try to move it?

Any of these actions can cause serious injury or electrocution (death). Downed lines and other damaged equipment can energize the ground, nearby people and objects. Never go near a downed power line or try to move it with an object. Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

The safest place to be after getting into an accident involving a downed power line is inside your vehicle or cab. Unless your vehicle is on fire or giving off smoke, here is what you should do:

- ▶ Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- ▶ Call 911 and report there are downed or damaged power lines.
- ▶ Try to remain calm.
- ▶ Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.
- ▶ Do not get out until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, cross your arms over your chest and make a clean, solid jump out, then intentionally hop with your feet together as far away as you can. If you are unable to make solid hops, shuffle with your feet close together.

When you exit, do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. You could become electricity's path to ground from touch potential (touching something energized and the ground at the same time).

Hopping helps avoid step potential (placing each foot at a different voltage). When electricity escapes into the ground, it is likened to ripples in a pond, with each ripple representing a different voltage.