

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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Teaching safety to our members and communities

Story and Photo by Joy Bullock

Public safety is a commitment that South Kentucky RECC takes seriously. The co-op has approximately 7,000 miles of electric lines in 11 Kentucky and two Tennessee counties. South Kentucky RECC makes it a priority to educate its members and communities about safety issues concerning power lines, underground transformers, substations and other things related to its energy.

South Kentucky RECC's electric safety trailer provides a powerful demonstration of high voltage electric, designed to make people aware of the severity of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.

South Kentucky RECC Safety and Loss Control Manager Eric Chumbley says with the trailer, children and adults can witness the flash of an electrical arc, hotter than the surface of the sun, learn about electrical faults and other dangerous situations, and how to avoid them.

"Our safety trailer is 16 feet long and is an exact replica of the equipment we use on everyday line construction. We use a generator for our power source, and backfeed the transformer mounted on the trailer, to energize the line to 7,200 volts, which is our main focus explaining how dangerous backfeeds can be and how we avoid them. The program



South Kentucky RECC's safety trailer is an extremely effective and safe way to demonstrate the dangers of electricity and teach people how to remain safe around the co-op's electrical system.

demonstrates and educates the public on proper safety precautions around electrical equipment.

"The trailer and accompanying safety program are available to first responders, local schools, scout groups, 4-H and civic groups and businesses," Chumbley says. "We offer this service to anyone in the public interested in seeing the demo in an effort to save lives."

Chumbley adds that the safety demonstration covers:

- Typical causes of outages.
- Backfeeding of electricity.
- Automobile accidents involving South Kentucky RECC poles and equipment.

- Fuse and breaker operations.
- Right-of-way/line loss due to vegetation.

He stresses that participants are also shown how South Kentucky RECC employees work safely around electricity—using the proper personal protective equipment, such as rubber gloves and sleeves, protective eyewear, harnesses, etc.

Safety is priority one with South Kentucky RECC. The co-op's safety trailer demonstration, available to groups in our communities, is one way that we try to keep everyone safe. **DSK**

Protect your eyes



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 2,000 U.S. workers each day sustain a job-related eye injury requiring medical treatment. March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month, and South Kentucky RECC wants to remind everyone that eye safety is not limited to their workplace.

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, many eye injuries occur at home. Chemicals, like bleach, cause about 125,000 eye injuries each

year; using power tools can send wood chips or other things flying into the air; and yard tools, such as mowers, trimmers, etc., can throw dirt and debris into the air.

By simply wearing protective eye wear, the risk for injury to your eyes is reduced by as much as 90%. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends that every household have at least one pair of American National Standards Institute-approved protective eyewear. It could save your sight.

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DAY

June 7, 2022

Wayne and McCreary county offices

June 8, 2022

Russell and Clinton county offices

June 9, 2022

Somerset office

SAVE THE DATE!



SK South Kentucky
RECC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to spring forward on March 13! Set clocks ahead one hour and check your smoke detector batteries.



TSA/REVA/PRO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Equal employment opportunity policy statement

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity employer. To ensure full implementation of this policy we will adhere to the following standards:

- Persons will be recruited, hired and promoted for all jobs without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or protected veteran status.
- Placement decisions will be based solely on an individual's qualifications.
- Other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs, and cooperative-sponsored programs and activities will be administered without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or protected veteran status.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation provides equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. Harassment of any individual because of a disability or protected veteran status will not be tolerated. Employees and applicants will not be subject to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination because they have filed a complaint; assisted in any activity related to the administration of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), 38 USC 4212, or the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002; and/or exercised any other right protected by the acts.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation also has had a long-standing commitment to provide a work environment free from all forms of sexual harassment. Any substantiated incidents of sexual harassment by a management or supervisory employee or co-workers will result in immediate

disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of every employee to bring to the co-op's attention any evidence of sexual harassment so that the matter can be promptly investigated and appropriate action taken.

As the President & CEO of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, I, Ken Simmons, fully support our Affirmative Action programs, and I will work to ensure that our equal employment opportunity policy is being implemented at all levels. Each manager of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. If you have a question about South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation's policy, would like to view relevant portions of the Affirmative Action programs, or feel that you have been a victim of discrimination or harassment, you should contact South Kentucky RECC's Human Resources department.

Scholarship opportunity

2022 WIRE Scholarship

The Kentucky Chapter of Women in Rural Electrification (WIRE) is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to Kentucky college students.

The scholarships are open to any applicant who meets the following criteria:

- Student or student's family must be served by a Kentucky rural electric cooperative.
- Student must have completed at least 60 credit hours at the end of the 2021 fall college term.
- Student must attend a Kentucky college or university.

The scholarship application deadline is June 14, 2022. Scholarship recipients will be notified in July.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, career goals, recommendations from professors and community leaders, and financial need.

Applications should be returned to Mary Beth Dennis, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 32170, Louisville, KY 40232.

Find the scholarship application at <https://kyelectric.coop>, search "WIRE."



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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



Build a Touchstone Energy Home and save

Spring is when many begin the process of building a new home. Be sure to check out our Touchstone Energy Home program. By building your home to Touchstone Energy Home energy efficiency standards, you pocket the savings.

Touchstone Energy Homes are tested and inspected for all areas of heat loss before being certified. This ensures your home is energy efficient. A new home must pass a pre-drywall and final inspection before it qualifies. This final inspection includes a blower door test that measures the total air flow rate through all openings in the house.

Before you begin building, stop by South Kentucky RECC's offices to pick



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

up a copy of the *Touchstone Energy Home Specifications* booklet to make sure your new home will qualify.

ENERGY STAR rating brings manufactured home savings

Considering a mobile home purchase? When you purchase a manufactured home, choose an upgrade to ENERGY STAR, provide your certification and receive an \$1,150 incentive.

Since the ENERGY STAR-certified home uses substantially less energy for heating, cooling and water heating than a standard manufactured home, it's less expensive to run. You may save an average of more than 4,000 kilowatt-hours per year when compared to the standard manufactured home. Right now, that's an average savings of about \$450 each year or about \$40 a month.

"Members who are buying new manufactured housing should request an ENERGY STAR upgrade as part of their order," says Alan Coffey, energy services/member engagement manager for South Kentucky RECC. "Our incentive will cover the cost of the upgrade in most cases,

and then you'll save month after month, year after year, in lower electric bills."

To be eligible for this incentive, new manufactured homes must meet the following criteria:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Systems Building Research Alliance (SBRA) guidelines as an ENERGY STAR Manufactured Home.
- Primary source of heat must be a heat pump and meet federal minimum efficiency guidelines.
- Home must be all electric.
- Home must be installed by the manufacturer on lines served by the co-op. Coffey adds if your manufactured home is not ENERGY STAR-certified, but it has a heat pump, South Kentucky RECC has a \$500 incentive that is available.

Call South Kentucky RECC to speak to an energy advisor to see if you qualify for an incentive.