SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

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It was a busy summer

By **TYE WILLIAMS** | *Manager*

SUMMER is almost over, and we have been working hard to keep up with outages, trouble calls, new services, pole changeouts and our large transmission project. In mid-July, we lost more than 40 poles along a large swath of our territory, which went from the western edge of Carter County to South Dakota. Our crews and contractors replaced the broken transmission, 3-phase, V-phase, and single-phase poles to regain members' power. We were trouble-shooting and finding other issues from the storm well into August.

When the linemen were not dealing with blinks and outages, they installed new services for homes, shops, water wells and other small commercial projects. With the combination of Red Rock Power and Southeast Electric crews, we plan to replace between 700 and 800 old poles again this year.

EPC, Red Rock, Brink and other local contractors have begun work on our large transmission project. Dirt work began on the new substation in late July, and poles began to be staged along the route in early August. We estimate the substation construction to be completed in early 2025, and the transmission line to be completed in the summer of 2025. Once completed, the transmission line will provide the needed capacity for pumping units along the Oneok pipelines, a secondary loop feed for our Baker transmission line and another substation to power members in that area.

We have also been able to provide funds through our USB obligations to provide energy-efficient lighting for the rodeo grounds and fairgrounds in Ekalaka. Southeast Electric has also worked closely with the Carter County Museum to provide USB grant funds for its upcoming renovation and expansion. We will continue to work with the museum over the next two years to apply for a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan in the spring of 2026. RM

NOTICE

Billing change

Bills out later, pay by the 20th

STARTING in November, all bill payments will be due on the fifth, rather than the first of each month. Members will have until the 20th of each month before the forfeited discount is applied. With this change, bills will follow the calendar month to match how Southeast Electric is billed for power by Western Area Power Administration and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Tips for SNOWBIRDS who fly south for the winter

• Have a friend check on your home while you are gone to ensure that you do not have frozen pipes or freezer/refrigerator troubles.

• Lower your thermostat and consider turning off your water heater.

• Unplug unneeded small electronics such as robot vacuums, TVs, computers and ceiling fans.

• Don't forget to let the cooperative know your winter address while you are away.

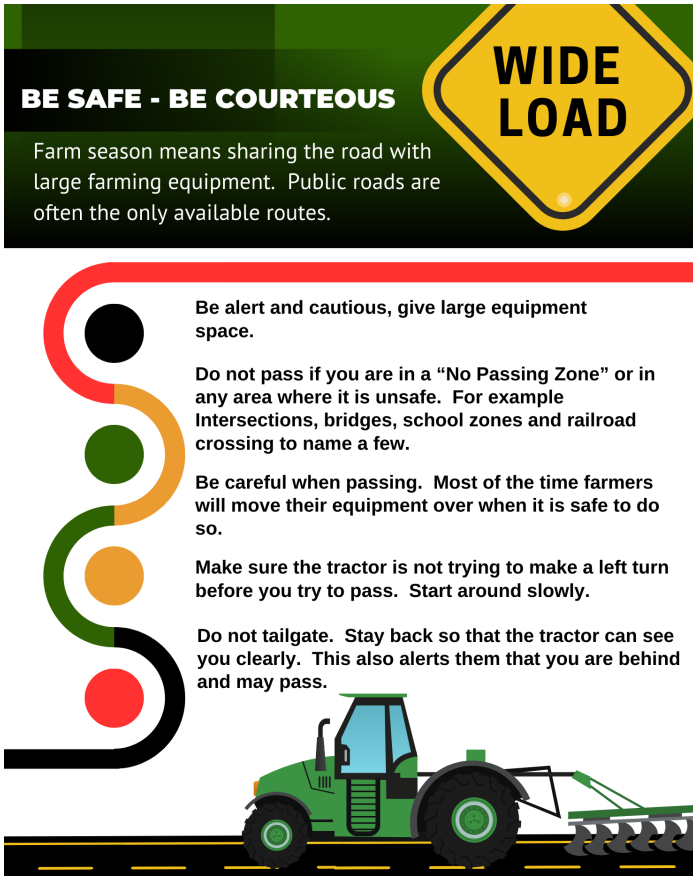
• Sign up for Smart-Hub. This allows you many conveniences:

> A quick and easy way to receive and pay your bill.

> Receive notifications of planned outages.

> Track the usage of your home while you are away.

A large home moved through Southeast Electric Cooperative territory at the end of July. Linemen lifted 43 lines in 2 days. **| PHOTO BY SARINA O'CONNOR**



Planting trees?

Have a plan to avoid powerlines

WHETHER planting trees to provide a wind break, shade, reduce carbon in the environment, or to beautify your landscape, Safe Electricity reminds everyone of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from powerlines.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards, and power outages. Trees and wood conduct electricity, causing outages or momentary interruptions when branches touch overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch also can cause fires.

Safe Electricity urges parents and caregivers to teach children never to climb trees near powerlines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb while climbing or playing around the tree can be fatal.

Landowners must understand utility line tree trimming and clearance practices, and why they're important to safe and reliable electric service. If you have trees that appear to be growing into powerlines, contact your electric utility. Never try to prune them yourself. Utilities have or can recommend skilled professionals trained to prune and trim trees for electric line clearance safely.

Seek help in choosing and placing trees that provide shade, color and screening that won't grow to interfere with the electric supply.

To avoid future hazards, safe planting tips include:

• Consider the mature height of trees. Never plant a tree that could grow to 25 feet or more near a powerline. Tall growing trees should be planted at least 20 feet away from powerlines and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning.

• Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

• Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

• Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark the location of underground utilities, so accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

There are many beautiful varieties of trees, low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade, and enhance the quality of life in our communities and environment. Consider the types of trees that co-exist well with powerlines and the environment to avoid the need for trimming for line clearance. Fore more tips, visit *safeelectricity.org.* RM