

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Playing it safe online



In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables, such as your identity, banking, health records and other sensitive information, from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin spice lattes and crisper air, fall is the time of year we often see a rise in phishing scams. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, KEM Electric Cooperative uses this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how KEM Electric is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. Turn on multi-factor authentication or two-step verification on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if hackers obtain your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multistep verification is enabled.

2. Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake popups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

3. Think before you click. Most successful cyberattacks

start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

4. Use strong passwords. Use long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time. It works across all devices, protects your identity and notifies you of potential phishing websites.

For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

Keeping electric grid and your data secure

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For KEM Electric, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues. We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. ⚡



Travis Kupper, Co-General Manager/ CEO

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Haas from Ashley Public School



KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TOUCHSTONE ENERGY
STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Thomas Haas was named the September Touchstone Energy® Student of the Month from Ashley Public School. Haas's nominator says he is passionate about music and continually strives to improve his music skills. We would also like to recognize Jace Nitschke and Daniel Schumacher, who were also nominated.

Throughout the school year, KEM Electric Cooperative is choosing one student who has been nominated from the schools, grades K-12 in KEM Electric's service area to receive a \$100 sponsorship. The sponsorship can be utilized to the student's choosing for school activities. In November KEM Electric is highlighting a deserving student from Kidder County Public School. Scan the QR Code to nominate a student! ⚡



INTERESTED IN SERVING? Join the KEM Electric board and power the future

Are you a dedicated leader with a deep connection to our rural community? We invite you to be a driving force behind positive change by joining the KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors.

KEM Electric currently has an at-large vacant seat, along with District 1 and District 2 positions up for election.

Why join our board?

Running for a board of director position for an electric cooperative can be a meaningful and impactful decision. Here are just a few reasons to join:

- **Make a difference:** Contribute to decisions that impact our energy future.
- **Community engagement:** Collaborate with like-minded individuals dedicated to community growth.
- **Professional growth:** Enhance your leadership skills and network.

Who we're looking for

We're seeking individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives who share our commitment to serving the members of KEM Electric.

Ideal candidates should have:

- Leadership and strategic thinking skills
- A commitment to our communities/service area
- Strong communication and collaboration abilities

If you're ready to make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to visit www.kemelectric.com to learn more. Nomination petitions open on Jan. 13, 2024, and must be turned in by the end of day on March 13, 2024.

For inquiries or more information, please contact Marcy Sanders at 701-254-4666 or email msanders@kemelectric.com. ⚡



KEM Electric will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all Veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!