



CURRENT NEWS



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**KEM
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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KEM Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Vaping escalates in schools

Local efforts underway to educate families on dangers

School is back in session. Parents, are you doing YOUR homework? Beverly Voller, RN-executive officer and tobacco prevention coordinator for Emmons County Public Health in Linton, says your child may be using nicotine and you may not even know it — because Big Tobacco has gotten creative in disguising its products.

Electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, have exploded in popularity. They are a battery-powered device that converts liquid nicotine into a mist, or vapor, that the user inhales. There's no fire, ash or smoke.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and American Lung Association report “vaping” is the most popular form of nicotine use among teenagers in the United States. E-cigarette use rose by 900 percent among high school students from 2011 to 2015.

Use has become difficult to identify, in part, because some of the product designs resemble flash drives, markers, inhalers and oversize lipstick tubes. Would you be able recognize the product and if your child is using?

Maybe not, says Voller, who says the device that looks like a flash drive actually plugs into a computer and charges so the student can get a fix. These products are also harder to identify because the e-liquid they inhale might smell like gummy bears, cotton candy, peppermint, chocolate or pretty much any scent that could be mistaken for a dessert.

“I’ve been working in public health for 35 years, and tobacco use has always been an issue,” says Voller. “The tobacco companies keep coming in and finding ways to get youth to use their products.”

In KEM’s September local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, read the entire story and learn why vaping is dangerous — and kids are vulnerable.

Also in the SEPTEMBER issue of *North Dakota Living*:

■ KEM awards grants with large impact ■ Board meeting highlights & more

Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

-  Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
-  Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
-  Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
-  Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
-  If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov

Have a power outage? CALL US!

Members, if you have a power outage, please CALL US ... do not contact us via a Facebook comment or message, as our page is not monitored 24/7. By calling us, employees will log the call and alert the line crews.

701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673



KEM maintains exceptional system reliability

Severe weather was the story of our summer here at KEM Electric Cooperative. We received a lot of much-needed rain in our service area, but with that rain came lightning, high winds, hail and even funnel clouds. It was an active weather pattern — and that meant a lot of activity at your electric cooperative.

Because we had more severe weather events this summer, it may have felt like there were more power outages. We had a few transmission outages caused by lightning that resulted in more members being out of power at one time, but our co-op did not experience a larger number of actual outages.

The Member Satisfaction Survey we completed this past year indicated system reliability is very important to you.

Every year, our construction work plan includes making improvements that maintain and strengthen the system. As utility industry standards and technology evolve, we are able to make changes to the transmission and distribution system that can benefit KEM and its members.

In the September local pages of *North Dakota Living*, learn how technology continues to improve, and reduce the number of power blinks and outages on our system.

Also learn about the dispatch process following a power outage, and how your information is important in aiding the restoration process.

Cooler weather is on the way and the heating season is upon us. Is your electric meter breaker on?

Members, if your home or business has a sub-meter for the separately metered electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. In fact, if you have a heat meter, please make sure the breaker to the meter is turned on all year, to ensure KEM receives meter readings. If the breaker is off, your electric heat kilowatt-hour usage will not be reflected on your bill.

The Separately Metered Heat rates run Oct. 1 through April 30.

Unclaimed capital credits

The September local pages of *North Dakota Living* contain the names of current or former KEM members who have unclaimed capital credit checks that were mailed in December. These checks have either been received but not cashed, or returned to KEM by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by KEM personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you know the whereabouts of people on this list, please have them contact our office at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large, but we would like to get these checks to the proper parties.

Persons who wish to claim checks from the following list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification.