



P.O. Box 699, 530 W. Jones, Troy, KS 66087
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www.donrec.org

**DONIPHAN ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.**

Co-op Connect

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Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

FROM THE MANAGER

Lyrics, Cheese and Love for Linemen

On April 11, we celebrate Linemen Appreciation Day

*"I know I need a small vacation,
But it don't look like rain,
And if it snows that stretch
down south,
Won't ever stand the strain."*

"It was a dark and stormy night ..."

OK, so what do a set of lyrics from the 1968 No. 1 hit Wichita Lineman (by Jimmy Webb) and the cheesy start to a romance novel have to do with linemen? Well to start, it summarizes the aptitude and attitude I've come to experience with them.

Let Me Start with Aptitude

1 LINEMEN HAVE ENDURANCE
I recall coming in to the office after a particularly bad storm. One crew had been out all night and were

just coming in for a required break. The young apprentice said "I need a small vacation" while the other's laughed, slapped him on the back, and said "see you at noon". It was 8 a.m. and they were already planning on getting back out at the end of the mandatory break.



Michael Volker

2 LINEMEN ARE SMART Working with electricity, delivery systems, heavy equipment, software, and all the technology of the modern grid requires significant training and the brains to use it well. Recently, a gateway failed making the information coming from the mesh design of the automated metering infrastructure fail to deliver data from some smart meters. Meaning: a lineman was needed to fix it.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop. Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25%-30% less energy than standard equipment.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



Lyrics, Cheese and Love for Lineman

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3 LINEMEN ARE INGENUOUS They are extraordinary at creatively finding ways to restore service. From inventing new ways to back-feed circuits on the fly to inventing the tools to do the job, this is a crafty, clever and resourceful group.

How About Attitude?

- ▶ **MEMBERS FIRST** Nobody looks forward to a storm, but nobody is more ready when outages are imminent. The storm might be still raging, but energy drinks are going down like skittles. Crews are bouncing off the walls ready to get out and fix the damage. Members matter.
- ▶ **LOVE TO SERVE** It doesn't matter if it is a meal at the annual meeting or trimming trees for a member, linemen love to serve our members.
- ▶ **THEY ARE MEMBERS** Most linemen I know are co-op true and true — they are generally not only employees of the cooperative, they are **MEMBERS** of the cooperative. It creates a different attitude, a different respect and a different drive.
In short, linemen — particularly cooperative linemen — are strong, smart, creative, motivated, caring and family. Please keep these things in mind as we celebrate the hard and dangerous work that these individuals perform to provide the members of Doniphan Electric with excellent service. Thank you **DANIEL, SCOTT, TODD** and **TREVOR** for the excellent work you do.

Call Before You Dig

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

- ▶ **RED** – Electric
- ▶ **ORANGE** – Communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ **BLUE** – Potable water
- ▶ **GREEN** – Sewer/Drainage
- ▶ **YELLOW** – Gas/Petroleum pipeline
- ▶ **PURPLE** – Reclaimed water
- ▶ **WHITE** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

Know that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include an underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.

It's Easy. It's Free.

PLANNING A DIGGING PROJECT ON YOUR PROPERTY?

If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you be seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, **CALL 811**, the Call Before You Dig number, at least two business days prior to breaking ground.

NOTE 811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.

AN UNEVENTFUL DIGGING PROJECT IS THE BEST KIND TO HAVE.

Rejuvenate Your Old Electric Water Heater

DEAR JIM: My electric water heater is old, but it does not leak yet. Since it is old, I imagine there are some things I can do to make it more efficient. What improvements do you recommend? – Jeffery M.

DEAR JEFFERY: Heating domestic hot water, especially with an electric water heater, is one of the greatest contributors to your monthly utility bill. Even when a family practices hot water-saving habits, heating the water is often responsible for one-quarter of the annual utility bills.

An electric water heater is a very simple device. It is basically an insulated tank of water with an upper and a lower resistance heating element. The lower element is the main one used. When most of the hot water has been used, the lower one goes off. The upper one then comes on to supply hot water more quickly since the water is drawn from the tank top.

Even if you do not use any hot water, the lower element will cycle on at times to make up the heat lost (called standby losses) through the tank walls. Your older water heater likely just has a couple of inches of fiberglass insulation between the glass-lined metal tank and the external skin.

Place the back of your hand against the water heater tank near the top or on the top. If it feels warm, it is losing heat and adding an insulation wrap kit would be effective and save money. With a tall 80-gallon tank, the insulation wrap may not reach all the way down to the floor. This is OK because the majority of the heat loss is from the warmer upper part of the tank.

If you have some old fiberglass wall insulation, just wrap that around the tank with the facing to the outside. Putting a layer of reflective radiant barrier over the insulation also helps some and looks better than paper vapor barrier. With a gas water heater, be sure the insulation does not block the bottom combustion air inlet or the draft diverter at the top.

Several times a year, drain a gallon of water from the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. This will flush out sediment that collects there. Sediment insulates the water from the heating element. This is more important to do with a gas or propane water heater, but it also helps some on an electric one.

It is important to keep the water temperature as low as possible. A greater temperature difference between the hot water and the air in your basement or utility room loses. During the summer, these losses heat up your house and make your air conditioner run longer creating a double energy expense.

Check the temperature of the hot water at a faucet where you use the most hot water. I keep the water temperature at my house at only 115 degrees. If you keep it so hot that you have to mix much cold with it to tolerate the temperature, it is too hot. Most laundry detergents work well in cold water and dishwashers have built-in preheaters.

Feel the temperature of the hot water outlet and cold water inlet pipes. If they are fairly warm, it means hot water, because it is less dense, is naturally circulating upward and cooling off. Slide tubular foam insulation on the water heater inlet and outlet water pipes to minimize the heat loss. If it's split on one side, it's easier to install over the pipes.

If you are having other plumbing work done, while the plumber is there, have him install heat trap fittings in the water heater to block this circulation in the pipes. Paying to have a plumber come just to install heat trap fittings will probably not make economic sense. It generally is not a DIY project.

Installing a water heater timer can be effective if your work schedule means you typically do not use hot water



JAMES DULLEY

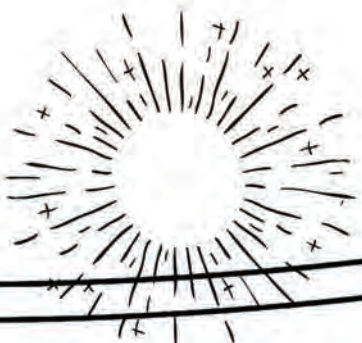
This new, 12-year warranty electric water heater has digital controls. It is set at 110 degrees to help increase energy efficiency.

during a longer regular time period. This keeps the heating elements from coming on. The temperature should not drop much on a well-insulated tank. Also, the resistance heating element will not come on during the peak afternoon electricity demand period, which helps control generation expenses for the electric co-op.

Installing an add-on heat pump water heater can bring the overall water heating cost down. This is a small refrigeration device which draws heat from the utility room or basement and transfers the heat into the water heater. When you are air-conditioning during summer, it is super-efficient because it is also helping to cool your house.

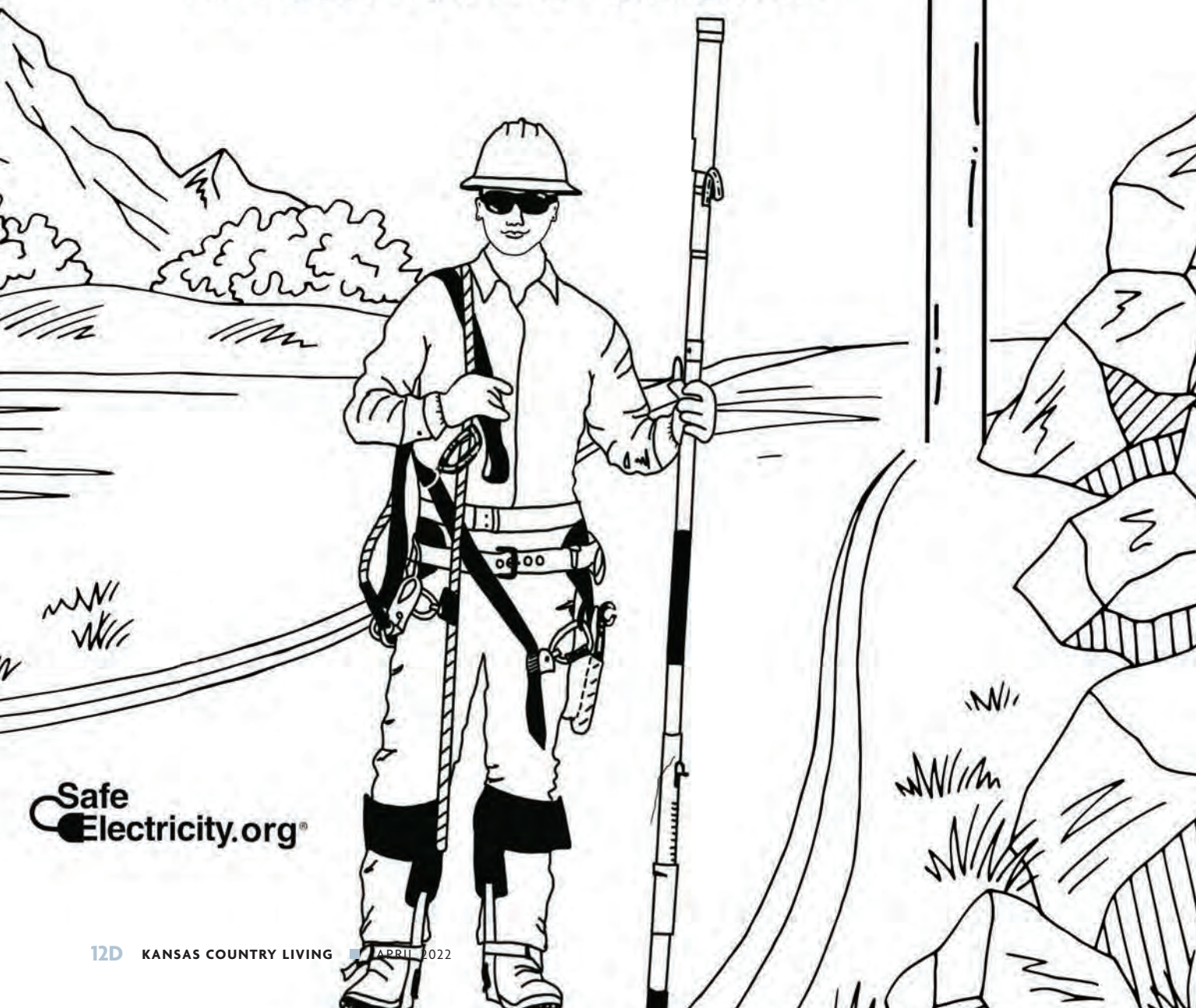
If you end up deciding to get a new electric water heater, select a 12-year warranty model. These have higher R-value foam insulation in the tank walls than a cheaper 6-year model. Also, most of the 12-year models have electronic digital controls which simplify setting the hot water temperature. They also have a vacation mode setting to save electricity when you travel.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, *Kansas Country Living*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.



THANK YOU

FOR KEEPING THE POWER ON



 Safe
Electricity.org®