



BLUESTEM

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

www.bluestemelectric.com

May 2007

Bluestem NEWS

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Call 811 Before You Dig

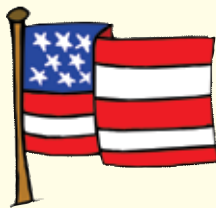
Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Bluestem Office Closed For Memorial Day

The Bluestem Electric office will be closed on May 28 for Memorial Day.



Have a Safe Holiday!

Happy Mother's Day



Don't forget to celebrate Mother's Day on May 13th

Lightning & Surge Protection

The snow and ice are gone! It's time to get ready for thunderstorms, lightning strikes and the summer heat!

Bluestem Electric Cooperative is offering services that will help protect your home during these periods. Install these devices for peace of mind and let Mother Nature do her thing!

The whole house lightning and surge suppression ring protects your major household appliances from lightning strikes and other power surges and also provides a warranty for specified appliances.

Surge Strips are designed to protect equipment associated with another cable and/or phone line.

With this program you can lease the basic package for only \$4.95 per month, which will be added directly to your power bill.

Our technicians do the installation for a one-time fee of \$69.95.

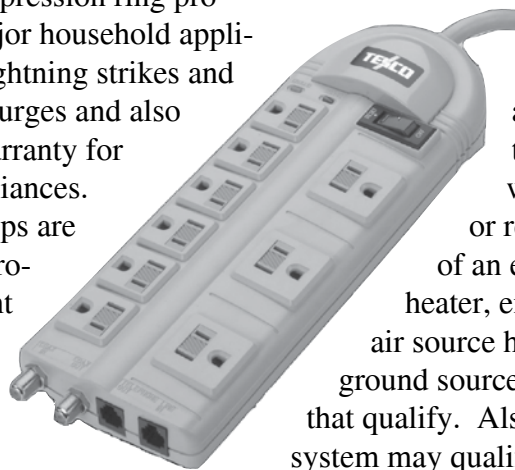
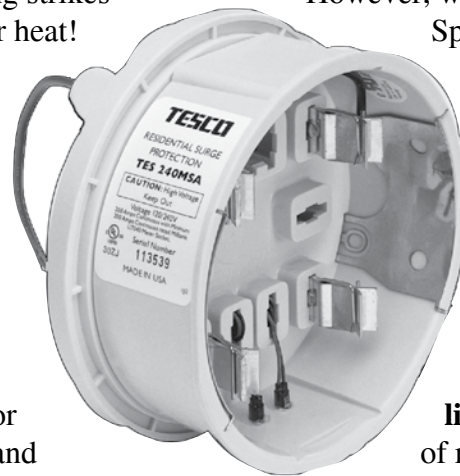
However, with our Spring Special we will drop the installation fee to \$34.95 if you act before May 31.

Bluestem also offers other services to consider:

Security lights. Have peace of mind knowing your property is well lit at night and enjoy safer working conditions in the evening.

Cash rebates on the purchase and installation of electric water heaters or replacement of an electric water heater, energy efficient air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps that qualify. Also, your heating system may qualify for a reduced electric rate.

If you have any questions regarding these services, please call us for information at (785) 456-2212 or (785) 632-3111.



Plant Trees Safely Away From Power Lines & Equipment

Trees that grow too close to electrical lines can create power outages, shock and fire hazards.

Before beginning yard landscaping projects this spring, Bluestem reminds you of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines, and to seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with their electric supply.

Landowners need to understand utility line clearance practices and why they're important to safe and reliable electric service.

Trees conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if limbs grow too close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when trees and branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires. But a greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or person playing or trimming around the tree could be fatal.

Trees growing near power lines must be pruned to maintain a safe distance from the wires. If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact Bluestem. Never try to prune them yourself.

To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planting tips to remember include:

- Consider mature height of trees. Do not plant near

overhead power lines any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended

- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before beginning any outdoor excavating or landscaping project, call Bluestem and the underground utility locator service to identify and locate all possible utility hazards. Your utility also can provide helpful planting information, or refer you to nursery and landscaping experts for assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate to plant near power lines.

There are many beautiful varieties of low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade. These types of trees co-exist well with power lines and avoid the need for trimming for line clearance.

Trees enhance the quality of life in our communities. This tree-planting season, consider the environmental and energy-saving benefits of trees and bushes, but equally important, the need to choose the right tree when planting near power lines.

Bluestem's New Rebate Program Goes Into Effect July 1

The new efficiency requirements and rebate amounts will be as follows and must be met in order to receive a rebate:

Water Heaters

- Less than 60 gallons must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of 0.93.
- 60 gallons or greater must have a minimum EF of 0.91.
- The rebate for a standard water heater (non-lifetime warranty) if it is in new construction or replacing gas with electric is \$125, electric-to-electric is \$75 and for a lifetime warranted water heater is \$175.

Air Source Heat Pump

- Minimum unit size of two tons.
- Must have a minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14.
- Must have a minimum Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.2.
- Rebate amounts are \$100 per ton for a 14 SEER, \$150 per ton for a 15 SEER, and \$200 per ton for 16 SEER and above.

Ground Source Heat Pump

- Minimum unit size is two tons.
- Open loop - Must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 16.2.
- Closed loop - Must have a minimum COP of 3.3 and a minimum EER of 14.1.
- Rebate amount is \$125 per half-ton

Electric Heat

- Electric resistance heat will no longer qualify for a rebate.

The current rebate program will remain in effect until July 1, 2007.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at your appropriate office. Wamego at (785) 456-2212 or (800) 558-1580 or Clay Center at (785) 632-3111 or (800) 297-8725.