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Bluestem's Line Crews Help with the Arkansas Ice Storm

Sixteen Bluestem linemen were sent, along with four trucks, to Berryville, AR, to help restore power after a recent ice storm.

There were approximately 100 volunteer linemen from 20 other Kansas electric cooperatives who assisted with the ice storm recovery.

Bluestem linemen traveling to Arkansas were Shelton Allen, Leland Barleen, Steve Blacketer, Travis Blackwood, Luke Brazzle, David Burton, Jerod Chaffee, Tim Diederich, Derek Francis, Gary Gonser, J R Hynek, Ben Mathews III, Aaron Massie, Kevin Swenson, Josh Wiedmer and Tim Wolf.

The Kansas crews assisted Carroll Electric Cooperative, which estimated they had 57,000 customers without power and 1,500 electric poles damaged or downed by the ice storm. The cooperative has approximately



Bluestem linemen show the cooperative spirit while coming to the aid of Carroll Electric in Arkansas.

90,000 customers, which means almost two-thirds of their customers were without power.

The linemen faced working conditions that included broken poles, trees in power lines and conductors broken from the ice and trees. Working conditions were hindered by mud, stream crossings and rugged terrain.

Electric cooperatives have always offered assistance to neighboring systems and to other states in times of crisis.

The dedication of Blue-

stem's linemen is tremendous. Bluestem's linemen are still working on restoring and rebuilding their own power lines from the ice storm of 2007.

Cooperative crews that worked along with Bluestem to restore power were from Ark Valley, Butler, Caney Valley, CMS, DS&O, Flint Hills, Heartland, Kaw Valley, Lane-Scott, LJEC, Lyon-Coffey, Midwest Energy, Nemaha-Marshall, Ninnescah, Radiant, Rolling Hills, Sedgwick County, Twin Valley, and Victory.



Bluestem linemen faced tough working conditions hindered by mud, stream crossings and rugged terrain.

Bright Ideas for Saving Energy!

Choose the right Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL)

Matching the right CFL to the right kind of fixture helps ensure that it will perform properly and last a long time.

- For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL since it will evenly distribute the light down to your task area.
- Use specially designed EnergyStar® qualified CFLs for fixtures with a three-way or dimmer switch. Make sure to choose the CFL with the right amount of light. The package will be labeled with the equivalent lumens to the incandescent bulb you are replacing.



CFLs: They Don't Cost You Money - They Save You Money!

Consider the savings when you replace one incandescent bulb with a CFL in a fixture that is used for three hours per day.

	Incandescent Bulb	CFL
Power consumed	75 watts	20 watts
Lumens	1180	1400
Cost of bulb	\$0.50	\$3
Lamp life/hours	750	10,000
Lamp life	8 months	9.1 years
Total bulbs required	13	1
Annual energy cost	\$8.21	\$2.19
Life cycle cost	\$80.39	\$22.71

That's an energy savings of \$6.02 each year and a total savings of \$57.68 during the life of the CFL.

shapes and sizes for use in ceiling fans, vanity lights, etc.

Proper Care and Disposal

CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury. If broken, carefully sweep up the pieces and wipe the area with a wet rag. Place the pieces and the rag in a plastic bag and seal it.

CFLs in sealed bags can be disposed of with regular household trash, but it is better to save the spent CFLs for community household hazardous waste collection and recycling. Contact your waste removal company for more information.

Purchasing Tips

- Purchase EnergyStar® qualified CFLs for the most energy savings and longest lasting bulbs.
- Check the package to be sure you are buying the correct size and configuration for your application.
- EnergyStar® qualified CFLs come in a variety of

Why Switch to CFLs?

Efficiency: CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

Less Expensive: CFLs are initially more expensive, but since they use one-fourth the electricity and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, you save money during the life of the CFL. One 20-watt CFL used in place of a 75-watt incandescent will save about 550 kWh in its lifetime. That translates to about \$58 in savings.

Reduces Pollution: Replacing one incan-

descent bulb with a CFL will keep 358 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb.

High Quality Light: CFLs give a warm light instead of the light of older office type fluorescents. Electronic ballasts in CFLs prevent flickering or humming.

Versatile: CFLs can be used nearly anywhere that incandescent lights are used. They come in a variety of styles for ceiling fans, outdoor use, recessed fixtures, vanity lights, etc.

Funding Home Efficiency Improvements

The idea of owning a more efficient home – and paying lower utility bills – has widespread appeal, but finding ways to fund needed energy efficiency improvements can be difficult during hard economic times. Fortunately, there are several ways to recover some of your expenses

when planning your next project.

Through the Federal Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, Uncle Sam offers a personal tax credit for energy efficiency upgrades made to existing homes this year.

You can recover up to 30 percent of the cost (up to \$1,500) for adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce your home's heat loss or gain.

Tax Credits	
Exterior windows, storm windows and skylights	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Exterior doors and storm doors	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Metal or asphalt roofs	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Insulation	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Air source heat pump	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Ground source heat pump	30% of the cost
Electric heat pump water heater	30% of the cost up to \$1,500
Solar water heater	30% of the cost up to \$2,000
Photovoltaic system	30% of the cost no cap after Jan. 2009
Small wind energy	30% of the cost up to \$500/half kW of capacity
Note: Not all equipment will qualify for a tax credit.	

and geothermal heat pumps are expensive, you may qualify for a tax credit equal to 30 percent of the installation cost of any one of these systems.

Make sure to check with Bluestem Electric before proceeding with any type of solar project or geothermal system.

For a listing of federal, state and local energy efficiency assistance available, visit www.dsireusa.org or www.energystar.gov.

Want to install a new central air conditioner or air-source heat pump? The benefit covers up to 30 percent of the cost for qualifying heating and cooling unit or air conditioner, with a maximum credit of \$1,500.

In addition, other federal incentives are available. While solar panels, solar water heaters,

Marathon Water Heaters

If you want peace of mind when it comes to hot water, check out Marathon Water Heaters.

The Marathon Water Heater is the most energy-efficient electric water heater on the market providing safe, economical hot water. It's durable, environmentally friendly and will provide you with a lifetime of dependable service.

The Marathon tank is guaranteed not to leak for as long as you own your home.

Marathon offers a no-leak promise because of its superior, non-metallic PermaGuard tank construction - a seamless blow molded polybutylene tank with a filament wound fiberglass outer tank for maximum strength. Superior performance, high-efficiency, and low operating cost...for a lifetime!

Best of all you can get a Marathon water heater at any one of our offices through our water heater sales program.



Contact your appropriate Bluestem office for sizes and prices.

The insulating properties of the Marathon Water Heater are superior to all others!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Lower your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Notice to Irrigators

The contract year for all irrigation services is June 1 to May 31.

If you need to change the rate for any of your irrigation services for any reason, please notify the business office by May 1.

The appropriate equipment must be installed for the load management rate by the beginning of the contract year.

If you have any questions about the load management options, any current irrigation service, or any new irrigation service, please contact your cooperative office.

Electrical Safety Tips *Read these Carefully!*

Be safe around electricity. Here are a few helpful tips to remember:

- Don't touch an electric switch with wet hands.
- Never overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never plug in an electric cord that is frayed.
- Don't use electrical equipment outdoors in the rain.
- Never use water to put out electrical fires.
- Don't stand under trees or telephone poles during a storm.
- Stay away from fallen electrical lines.
- Fly kites in open fields away from electrical lines.
- Stay away from substation fences.
- Do not throw rocks at utility line insulators or transformers.

Lightning & Surge Protection Spring Special *What You Don't Know About Surge and Lightning Protection Will Shock You!*

Lightning and power surges can strike at any moment and can destroy or cause expensive damage to your sensitive electronics and appliances. Being prepared for these unexpected surges and spikes can make a big difference in protecting your appliances and equipment.

Lightning is often the cause of power surges, but other factors such as birds, squirrels, and trees interfering with power lines can cause a power surge.

Construction work, demand fluctuations in your home, auto accidents involving utility poles, and even disturbances transmitted through telephone and cable lines can have the same effect.

We want to help shield your electronics and appliances with our affordable surge protection program. Let us start protecting your home electronics and appliances today.

Bluestem is running a *Spring Special* on the installation of the meter base lightning and surge protection ring. The ring will protect your home and specific major electrical appliances and equipment from lightning and power surges. The cooperative is offering you an invitation to sign up for the Lightning & Surge Protec-

tion Program. Here's how easily we can begin the service for you:

- The lightning and surge protection device, installed at your electric meter, will provide protection from lightning strikes and other power surges for your home appliances.

You lease the basic package for only \$4.95 per month, added right on to your electric bill. Our technicians do the installation for a one-time fee of \$69.95. However, if you act before

May 31, we'll drop the installation fee to \$34.95.

- As part of the package, when you sign up you can purchase an in-home kit of plug-in surge protection products for individual electronic equipment.

- The lease lightning and surge suppression ring comes with a warranty that has a total household coverage of \$50,000 and \$5,000 per appliance.

Bluestem Electric Cooperative can help you with residential surge protection products for your home as well as products for personal computers. For more information on available products and prices or to sign up for the Lightning and Surge Protection Program, call Member Services at your appropriate Bluestem office.

