



**Sumner-Cowley
Electric Co-op, Inc.**

Building on our past. Lighting the way to the future.

P.O. Box 220, Wellington, KS 67152
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www.sucocoop.com

**SUMNER-COWLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS FROM THE **WHEAT CAPITAL**

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FROM THE CEO

FEMA Partnerships Help Keep the Lights On

When a storm rolls through, Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative is ready to respond. Crews work around the clock to restore power, repair damage, and make sure every member's lights come back on as quickly and safely as possible. But when that damage is severe, the cost of rebuilding can add up quickly — and that's where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) steps in to help.

Most people think of FEMA responding to natural disasters that make national news, such as hurricanes or widespread wildfires. But electric co-ops also rely on FEMA after smaller, localized events — the kinds of storms that may not always make national

headlines but can still cause significant damage.

That was the case following a severe storm that moved through our system in June 2025. In the aftermath, Sumner-Cowley Electric has worked closely with our state department of emergency management to assess damage, document impacts, and begin the recovery process. This coordination is a critical step in ensuring your cooperative receives the support



Coni Adams

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FIXING FEMA

FEMA partnerships are essential in restoring power to co-op communities, providing assistance beyond headline-making weather events.

We support the FEMA Act of 2025, a bipartisan effort to reform and modernize FEMA.



Manage Your Account Easily With SmartHub

Managing all your bills can be a difficult task and we have just the tool for you to manage your Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative account. With SmartHub you will be able to access several features to make managing your account as easy as possible.

- ▶ **VIEW AND PAY YOUR BILL.** View your current bill and make a payment with just a couple of clicks. After making your first payment through SmartHub, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. You can also set up auto pay, so you don't ever have to worry about making your payments on time!
- ▶ **VIEW YOUR USAGE.** Along with viewing your billing history, you can also view your actual usage and see how your consumption is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

▶ **REPORT OUTAGES.** If you are experiencing a power outage, you can quickly report it without having to call the office. When reporting an outage, you can also add details that can be helpful to the line crew in diagnosing the issue and resolving it quickly.

▶ **BUDGET GAUGE.** The budget gauge helps you set up a target budget amount, and using your daily usage data lets you analyze where you stand relative to that target amount. This will not change your actual monthly budget amount if you have a budget account.

▶ **VIEW AND RECEIVE NOTICES AND UPDATES.** You will see important updates and news from Sumner-Cowley Electric on the home screen, and you can choose how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.



Setting up a SmartHub account is simple; all you need to do is visit our website at www.sucocoop.com and click "SmartHub Login" at the top of the page. From there you will be able to create an account; just make sure you know your account number. If you would like to learn more about SmartHub or need help setting up an account, give us a call at 888-326-3356.

Applications are available! **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** **CLASS OF 2026**

Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative will award academic scholarships to high school students who meet the eligibility requirements and are selected by the scholarship committee. To apply, you must be a member of SCEC and you must be attending an accredited university, college, vocational, or trade school. Applications can be found at www.sucocoop.com.

Completed applications are to be returned to SCEC by April 10, 2026.



SCAN FOR APPLICATION



FEMA Partnerships Help Keep the Lights On

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it needs and that restoration and rebuilding efforts meet all state and federal requirements.

A few inches of ice, intense wind, or a sudden flash flood can snap utility poles, damage substations, and leave miles of power lines on the ground. In rural areas, where electric co-ops serve fewer members across larger territories, repairing that damage can be especially challenging and expensive. FEMA assistance helps ensure those costs don't fall entirely on co-op members and that power can be restored quickly without putting financial strain on cooperative member-owners.

FEMA's Public Assistance program helps co-ops like ours rebuild critical infrastructure after disasters, large or small. This essential partnership — along with coordination at the state level — ensures we can focus on restoring power rather than worrying about how to fund large-scale repairs.

The FEMA Act of 2025 is making its way through Congress and aims to modernize the agency's programs, making it easier and faster for essential service providers like your electric cooperative to restore and rebuild. It's an important step toward keeping disaster recovery fair, efficient and focused on the people who depend on reliable electricity every day.

Whether it's a large-scale storm or a localized event, support from FEMA and our state emergency management partners helps electric co-ops do what we do best — serve our members and keep the lights on, no matter what Mother Nature brings.

COOPERATIVELY YOURS,
CONI ADAMS, CEO

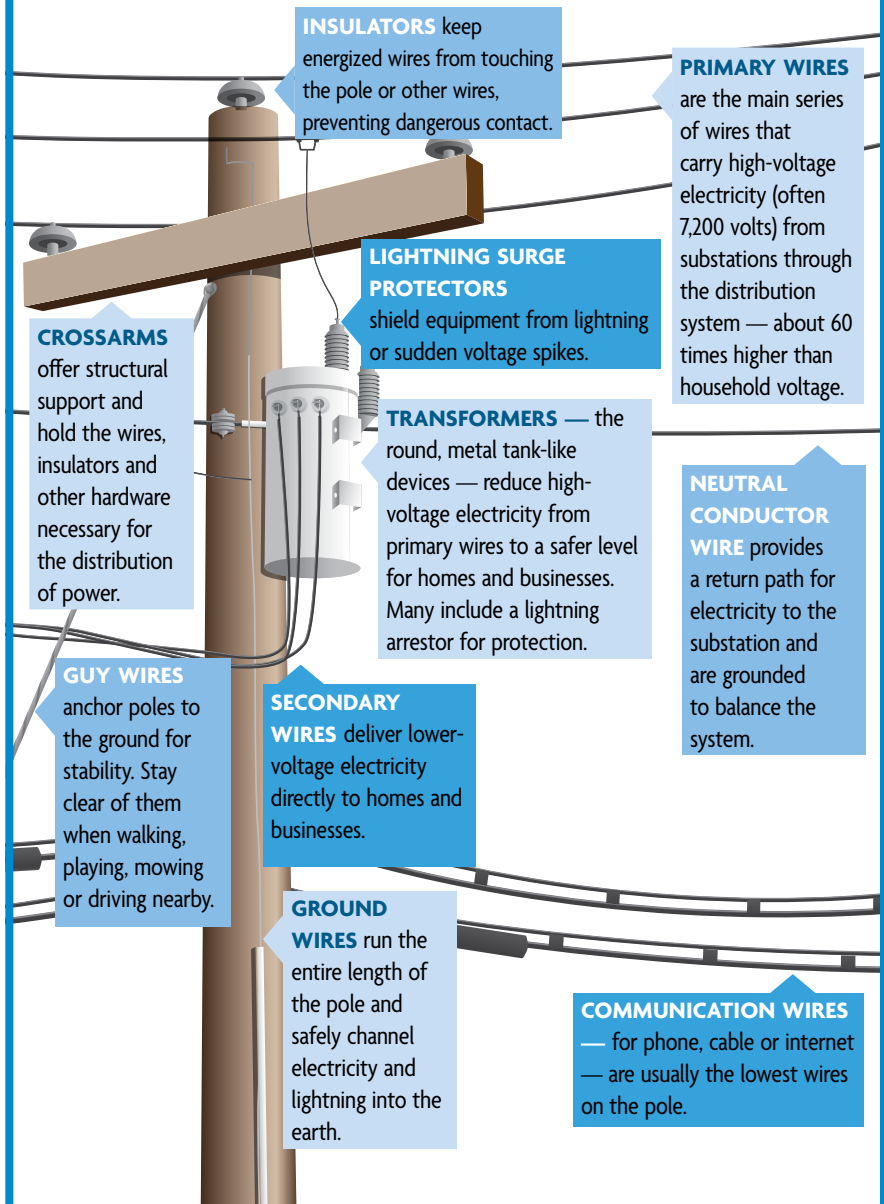
PARTS OF A POWER POLE

Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home?

Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed — and safe.

Here are some common parts found on power poles.

Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.



**NEVER ATTACH POSTERS, SIGNS
OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES.
THESE CREATE SAFETY HAZARDS FOR LINeworkERS.**

Be Prepared When Winter Storms Strike

We are now entering the heart of the winter season, which often brings frigid temperatures along with snowy and icy conditions. These weather events can lead to widespread power outages across the area. At Sumner-Cowley Electric, we don't want you to be left in the dark, so here are some important steps you can take to prepare before a winter storm hits.

One of the most important things to have during a winter power outage is an emergency supply kit. The items in your kit will help keep you warm, connected and fed. Consider including the following essentials:

- ▶ **WATER AND NONPERISHABLE FOOD.** Stock up on enough food to last three to seven days, including packaged or canned goods, juices, snack foods, and any special dietary items needed for infants or elderly family members. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person, per day.
- ▶ **COLD-WEATHER SUPPLIES.** Extra dry clothing, gloves, hats and blankets can help keep everyone warm. If you have a properly ventilated fireplace, be sure to have extra firewood on hand.
- ▶ **HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE ITEMS.** Include a first-aid kit, prescription medications, baby supplies, and pet supplies.
- ▶ **LIGHTING.** Keep flashlights readily available and make sure you have fresh batteries.
- ▶ **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.** Portable battery packs for cell phones and a battery-powered radio can help you stay informed and connected during an outage.
- ▶ **ADDITIONAL ESSENTIALS.** Utensils, toiletries, hygiene items, entertainment such as books, games, or puzzles, and a written list of emergency phone numbers are also helpful to have on hand.

If you plan to use a generator, it's critical to do so safely. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, or near windows or doors, as generators emit deadly carbon monoxide. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, as this can cause dangerous backfeed, sending electricity back through power lines and putting utility workers and others at risk. During a winter outage, continue to monitor the temperature inside your home. Infants and elderly individuals are especially vulnerable to extreme cold, which can lead to illness, hypothermia or frostbite. Avoid going outside unless absolutely necessary, as downed power lines may be hidden under snow or ice and can be difficult to see but extremely dangerous. Staying prepared and informed can help keep you and your family safe throughout the winter season.

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

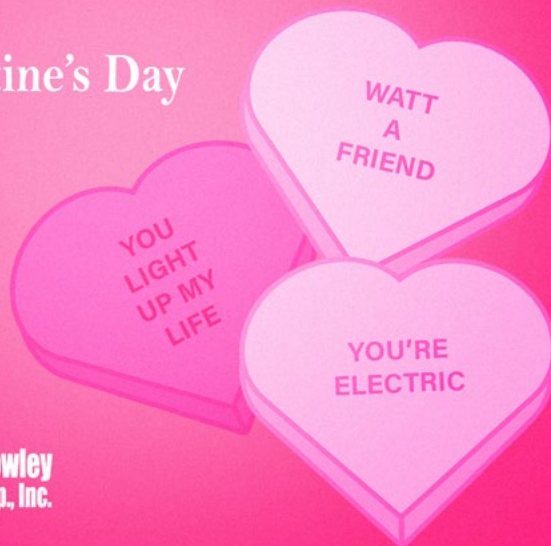


Enrolling in autodraft payments with your utility provider can help prevent certain types of utility bill scams. Rest easy knowing your bill is paid automatically through a pre-arranged, secure channel. Autodraft payments also eliminate the risk of exposing checks and personal banking info through the mail. SOURCE: AARP



WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS A MEMBER!

Happy Valentine's Day



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