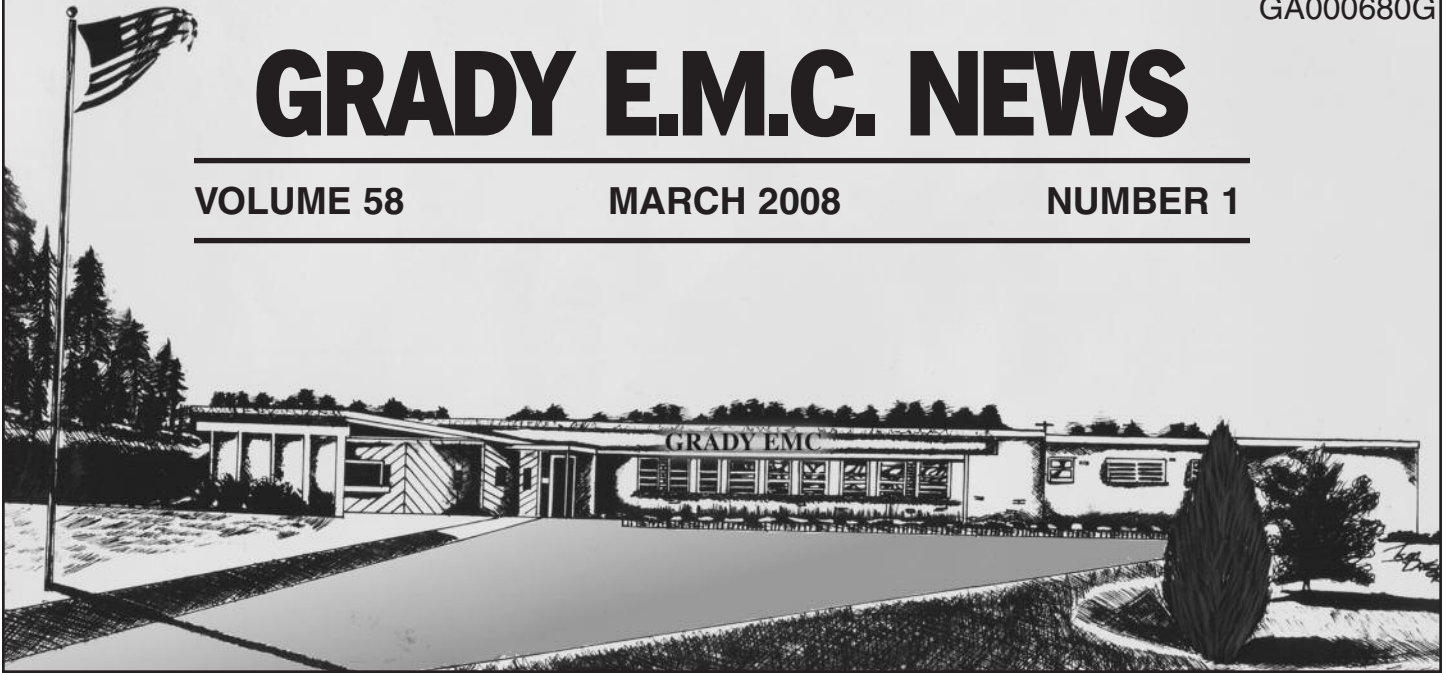


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Electricity Usage

How is Mine Different From My Neighbor's?

You have a TV, VCR, microwave oven, electric range and cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, stereo, heat pump and personal computer. So does your next-door neighbor. So why aren't your electric bills about the same? There are many factors involved in answering this question. Consider this: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor's? Do the members of your family take showers or baths? Are the showers long and use a lot of hot water? Are you cooking gourmet meals or baking from scratch while your neighbor pops quick meals in the microwave? Does the TV keep you company even when you're not watching it? Does everyone turn out the lights in a room when they leave? Are you or members of your family at home more than your neighbor's family? Are your homes about the same size? No two families live alike. So no two electric bills are the same. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else's would be like comparing

your weekly grocery bills. Two families of four will never spend exactly the same amount on food because their tastes and habits are different. Think about the conveniences you might be willing to pay for, even though your neighbor isn't. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on hot summer nights? Maybe your neighbor has set his or her thermostat a few degrees higher. Do members of your family entertain themselves in separate rooms after dinner—turning on a light in each—while the folks next door gather all together in a

family room to watch baseball games or a movie on TV? Remember, each of your neighbor's bills will differ from the other. Just make sure your bill reflects energy that has been used as efficiently as possible. If you have questions about your bill or your energy usage, call Grady EMC at 229-377-4182. We'll be happy to help you learn about your family's electricity usage and offer suggestions on how to improve efficiency. ■



GRADY EMC



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ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

You can avoid pain, scarring, and loss of life from electric shock by taking certain basic precautions:

- **Never touch any electrical item - washer, dryer, shaver, drill, whatever - while standing barefoot or in wet shoes or sandals on concrete, stone, terazzo, tile, metal or dirt.**
- **Remember that a turned-off device is connected to electricity until it is unplugged.**
- **Don't be careless with any electrical device in the bathroom while you are wet, barefoot, or touching any part of the plumbing.**
- **Use caution when operating such outside devices as drills or hedge trimmers. Read all safety instructions and don't remove the third prong.**

It's hard to imagine how our ancestors got along without electricity. Yet the more we use it, especially with light-duty, personal, and household equipment, the more we risk exposure to its danger—and the more precautions we must take to avoid its inherent hazards. ■

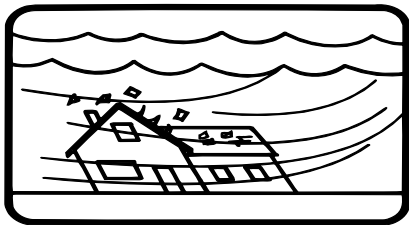
Planning a garage sale, holding an open house, or selling your car? We wish you the best in advertising your event, but ask you not to post information on our power poles.

**PLEASE
DON'T
POST IT
HERE!**



Nails and staples used to attach posters can injure our lineworkers, who must climb the poles in all kinds of weather. The lineworkers might tear equipment that protects them from electric shock, or catch it on a nail or staple, causing them to fall.

Please help us keep our lineworkers—and your friends and neighbors—safe.



Wind Does Affect Your Energy Costs

The problem of air infiltration in your home is most prevalent during March and April, two of the windiest months of the year. And wind induced infiltration of cold outside air can be a special problem.

Air flow over your house creates an intricate pattern of forces all around it. While these forces are invisible, you can see curtains move, feel drafts and hear wind noises around the house.

A certain amount of infiltration is needed. It replenishes oxygen in the house with at least one air exchange an hour under average wind conditions. A tightly built, well-insulated, weatherstripped home with electric heat and appliances should have a complete change of air every two hours.

Homes with fossil-fueled cookstoves, furnaces, water heaters or clothes dryers will need more air exchanges because they need more air. Every cubic foot of gas burned uses ten cubic feet of air to support combustion.

While air exchange is necessary, most houses lose far too much heat during the windy season. As the wind speed increases, air changes take place more often. You may notice that on a windy day you need to raise the setting on your thermostat a little high-

er and, even then, you may feel somewhat chilly. This is because the wind is pushing the cold air in and pulling warm air out at a faster rate than normal.

Cold air is pushed through the cracks around doors and windows, through floors and walls, through ducts and other openings, and into chimneys and exhaust fans.

What can you do to correct this problem? You can caulk window and door frames, install storm windows and doors and add weatherstripping to reduce air infiltration that usually comes through doors and windows. Keep windows locked and make sure storm sashes are in the proper tracks. Adequate insulation in the ceiling, under floors and in outside walls will fill the spaces that are normally vulnerable to air infiltration. Underpinning of crawl spaces - with the windward vents closed - helps with infiltration through floors.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs in the windward side yard to form an eventual windbreak.

The problems of infiltration can be minimized. Doing so, you will use less energy, lower your costs, and be more comfortable in your home. ■

In just a short time,



farmers, plantations, and individuals will begin to do some control burning. Whether in your yard, field or woods, Grady EMC would like to bring to your attention that we have had to replace several electric distribution poles as a result of permanent damage brought on by fire. We understand how this type of accident can happen and we are asking you to take EXTRA PRECAUTIONS this year in order to prevent this from happening. Not only does this create a potential safety problem by weakening the integrity of the pole and possibly causing it to break; but also, creates an unnecessary cost to you for having the pole replaced. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, help, and understanding. ■



Energy Awareness

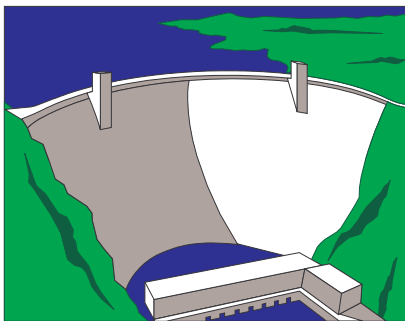
Electricity is such a common entity to our lives that many times we probably take it for granted. However, the use of electricity is essentially our way of life, our industrial strength, our international competitiveness and our nation's energy independence!

Such a fine gift it is, this electricity, a gift from the past that our forefathers have given to us. Our forefathers, by means of trying to find a better way through darkness and despair, brought us light. Yes, our fathers, and fathers' fathers wanted a better way of life for their generation and generations to come. They had dreams, the ambitions to set goals and the persistence to see them through. Finally, their dream became reality! However, most of the electricity we enjoy today is provided from power plants built in our forefathers' day. Many of these were built as many as 65 years ago. Now we must continue to provide for our future and our children's future. As our nation's demand for electricity increases, many decisions will need to be made that will effect this country for decades to come.



It takes electricity to run the lights, air conditioners, TV sets, stereos, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, personal computers, toasters, tools and telephones that we take for granted. It also takes electricity to power steel furnaces, drill presses, to automate factories, to run computers, photocopiers and facsimile machines needed for business and industry. Electricity use grows in direct proportion to our population and our economy. As our population increases, and as business and industry rely more heavily on electric technologies and equipment, electricity use will continue to grow. Therefore, we are going to need more electricity to meet the needs of our growing population and to sustain economic growth.

The common trend today is to keep America beautiful by keeping a clean environment. This becomes an important issue when considering construction of new power plants. Nuclear power plants produce energy by the fissioning of uranium, not by the burning of fuels. U.S. nuclear power plants have helped create a cleaner environment as has nuclear energy throughout the world. In 1991, America's 111 nuclear power plants produced almost 22 percent of our electricity, enough to meet the needs of 65 million homes. Without them, electric utility emissions of carbon dioxide (one of the "greenhouse" gases) would have been 20 percent higher. As our nation's need for electricity grows, nuclear energy can help meet that demand without polluting the air.



Hydropower produces 10 percent of the total electricity, but America has already used up most of its large-scale hydroelectric potential. There are simply not enough new dam sites that can be used for major electrical generation.

Other sources, such as geothermal, solar, wind and biomass show great promise. But they now provide less than one half of one percent of our electricity. Additional technological development is needed before some of these sources can compete with the more traditional sources of electricity.

Nuclear energy cannot solve all of America's energy problems. We should encourage all possible alternatives. Efficiency should be top priority, but efficiency will not eliminate the need for new power plants. By 2000 America's need for electricity had grown to more than 20 percent and by the year 2010 will have grown by more than 50 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Planning now, for the design of new nuclear power plants, will ensure adequate supplies of electricity, along with increasing our energy independence in America's 21st century. ■

*Information from: U.S. Council for Energy Awareness 1776 I Street, N.W. Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006-3708.