



Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

# POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living

January 2020

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## DON'T WAIT. BE PREPARED BEFORE THE STORM.

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. Follow these tips from the Department of Homeland Security to prepare you for major weather events and natural disasters.

### PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS AND ITEMS

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

### WITH ADVANCE WARNING

If a severe storm with high winds and sustained precipitation is expected, shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

### DURING A PROLONGED OUTAGE

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through icy or snowy areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property. Listen to local news and check SWRE's SmartHub app or website for restoration updates and other important co-op news. Act today, because there is power in planning.

**REPORT AN OUTAGE**

**Call 1-800-256-7973**

**or use the SmartHub app!**

## Director's Message



Board President, Don Ellis

### Board of Trustees

Don Ellis, Pres. ....District 1  
 Ronnie Swan, Vice Pres. ....District 6  
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 Dan White .....District 7  
 Carl Brockriede .....District 8

### Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310  
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 Tipton, OK 73570-0310  
 1-800-256-7973

Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

SWRE *Power Source* is published monthly for distribution to members of Southwest Rural Electric Association.

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App  
[SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com)

833-890-9510, Automated Bill-Pay Line

### Outage Reports:

1-800-256-7973  
 SmartHub App

# SAFETY, SATISFACTION & SERVICE... ONE MEMBER AT A TIME

Happy New Year! Just as you might have some personal New Year's goals, so do the directors and employees of your local electric cooperative.

The members of Southwest Rural Electric's board have taken on the weighty responsibility of running a multimillion-dollar utility. We are committed to keeping up with the changing regulatory, technological and legislative landscapes that affect our industry and know that our decisions affect thousands of our fellow members. As you may know, the board is currently searching for a candidate to fill the role of CEO/General Manager of this co-op and we thank you for the responsibility you've entrusted us with to find the right fit for you.

The co-op's most fundamental mission is to provide you with the best possible electric service at the lowest possible cost. That's what our staff members—from employees at the front desk to our linemen in the field and from the engineering department to our warehouse personnel and everyone in between—dedicate themselves to, year in and year out. For their dedication, I'd like to express my gratitude. All of them come to work each day with the needs of our members as their top priority. We assure you that our staff will continue providing exceptional service to you during this transition.

Thank you for your membership and continued support.

*Don Ellis*  
Board President

## SWRE BOARD APPOINTS INTERIM CEO



The SWRE Board of Trustees has appointed Keith Bonham as interim CEO effective December 12, 2019.

Bonham has been an employee of the cooperative since 1990. His most recent role was Manager of Member Services.

"The board is proud to announce Keith's appointment as interim CEO. Keith has been a great asset to the co-op for many years and he always has our members' needs as his top priority," said Don Ellis, SWRE's Board President.

January 2020

## SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



### ON THE GO AND IN CONTROL.

### MANAGE

your account

### REPORT

service issues

### VIEW AND PAY

your bill

### RECEIVE

key notices

### MONITOR

usage 24/7

...all in the palm of  
your hand and  
online.

SWRE News

# ATTENTION MEMBERS: THE PHONE NUMBER FOR PAYMENTS HAS CHANGED

Pay by Phone: 833-890-9510

As part of our dedication to provide safe, secure service, SWRE is introducing a new toll-free phone number specifically for payments. Call **833-890-9510** at any time of the day or night to pay your bill quickly and efficiently using a credit, debit, or prepaid card. When the call is answered, you will hear a prompt to enter your account number and payment information using the buttons on your phone's keypad. It's easy, secure, and members can call at any time – 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

## Why is SWRE using the Pay by Phone System?

Our cooperative is switching to this new system in order to comply with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard. PCI requirements represent a worldwide standard for processing payments that prevents credit card fraud and other data security breaches. SWRE is committed to the protection of your personal information and the cooperative must switch to this new automated phone system in order to keep accepting credit/debit card payments over the phone.

## Can I still call the office to pay by phone?

For a short time, SWRE will be accepting payments over the phone. However, we cannot store your credit card or bank information associated with your account anymore, so you will need to give us that information each time you call in. With the new automated phone system, you can store your payment information – making future transactions more convenient for you!



# 25 YEARS & LOTS OF CHEERS

*Pictured: Rick Risinger & Mike Wolfe were honored for 25 years of service in 2019 at an employee luncheon.*

## SAUSAGE & CHEESE MINI MUFFINS



### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb Hot (or Regular) Ground Pork Sausage  
3 C Bisquick  
1 Can Fiesta Nacho Cheese Soup  
2 C Shredded Cheddar Cheese  
1 tsp Onion Powder  
¾ C Buttermilk or Milk

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Cook the sausage and onion powder in a large skillet over medium heat until it's crumbled and no longer pink. Drain and cool.
2. Preheat the oven to 375°. Lightly spray a mini muffin tin and set aside.
3. In a large bowl, combine the sausage, Bisquick and cheese. In a separate bowl, whisk the soup and milk together, then pour the mixture into the sausage mixture. Stir well!
4. Spoon the mixture into the mini muffin tin, filling just to the top.
5. Bake for about 15-18 minutes.
6. Serve & Enjoy!

*Source: This recipe was submitted by Erin Hendricks, SWRE's Member Service Representative, and is a favorite for family gatherings. Photo is courtesy of plainchicken.com. If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, send it to our communication specialist! Your creation may just be featured in the monthly member magazine.*

## SWRE Trading Post

*FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on [SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com).*

*Send your ad to Rebecca Chambless, SWRE's communication specialist!*

*MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570*

*E-MAIL: [rchambless@swre.com](mailto:rchambless@swre.com)*

*PHONE: (580) 667-5281*

**For Sale:** Wood-burning fireplace insert with fans. Excellent condition, heavy duty and efficient. Located in Frederick, OK. Call 580-305-2556.

**For Sale:** 2014 Honda CRV LX, approx. 88,500 miles, one owner, asking \$10,000 or best offer. Also selling 30-40 pair of starched Rocky Mountain Jeans (various sizes available), an old closet armoire and a milk-glass chandelier. If interested, call 580-512-6674.

**For Sale:** Lift chair, like-new condition. Asking \$700 (originally purchased for \$1,000). Call 940-887-9052.

**For Sale:** 5 registered Red Angus bulls (4 yearlings and 1 three-year-old). Call 940-839-5467.



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