

SERVICE APPOINTMENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

You may be making plans to have a service tech visit your home to check your heating and cooling system this fall. But is it safe to invite a stranger into your home during the pandemic?

It might seem OK to skip this year's HVAC maintenance if your system was in fine shape last winter. But the pre-season checkup is important to prevent an unexpected breakdown that might require emergency repairs—or the installation of a replacement—when it's really cold outside. The emergency, of course, would require a tech to visit your home anyway. Still, experts say homeowners should weigh the pros and cons of having outsiders in your safe space when it's not an emergency.

If someone in your family is older or has a health condition and is at greater risk of getting sick if exposed to coronavirus, it might be prudent to put off a maintenance visit until health experts give the OK to mingle with strangers. Likewise, if anyone in your household is quarantining because of exposure to the virus, it's not safe for the service tech to be in your house and risk being exposed.

If you decide that maintenance or repairs are necessary, experts have this advice for how to keep yourself and your tech safe during a home visit:

- Ask questions. When you make your appointment, ask for information about the precautions the company's technicians are required to take when they visit a home. Are they strict enough for you?
- Request any additional accommodations that will make you feel comfortable. For example, ask if you can pay for the service over the phone and skip the exchange of pens and paperwork when the tech is at your home.
- Leave the door to your home open so the tech can let themselves in. You can greet them on the porch from six feet away and stay outside while they work indoors. Or, if you prefer to be inside while a stranger is in your home, station yourself in a room where they will not be working.
- Ask other family members to go for a walk or a drive so they will not be exposed to the tech at all.
- Scrub the work area before the tech arrives using a disinfectant. Lay out a clean towel for the worker to lay their tools on so they don't touch any surfaces in your home. Then, soak the towel in soapy water once they leave.
- Wear a mask and insist that the tech wear one, too. That way, you can protect each other.
- Ask the tech to disinfect anything they touch. Then, carefully clean the area once they leave, wearing a mask and gloves.

CO-OP PRINCIPLE #1

VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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SWRE APPOINTS JEFF SIMPSON CEO

The board of directors of Southwest Rural Electric Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Simpson as chief executive officer effective July 27, 2020. The announcement comes after an extensive nationwide search with delays related to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I've heard a lot of great things about the co-op's employees and the members we serve. I'm looking forward to developing those relationships," Simpson said.

Simpson has a background with electric cooperatives that includes over 40 years of service to Cotton Electric Cooperative out of Walters, Okla. He has experience in nearly

every co-op department from line crews to dispatch to his most recent role as vice president of accounting and administration. Simpson holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Cameron University. He and his wife, Sandy, have been married over 40 years and have two sons and four grandchildren.

"The board is very confident in Jeff's ability to lead the team and co-op into the future. He's going to be a great asset to SWRE," said President Don Ellis. "We are also thankful for Keith Bonham, a longtime SWRE employee, who stepped up to lead the team as interim CEO during the transition. His commitment to SWRE has gone above and beyond the call."

POSTPONED

ANNUAL MEETING
August 20, 2020

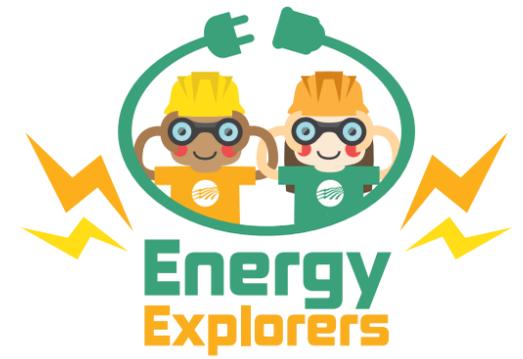
DISTRICT MEETINGS
September 2020

District 2 - Dan Lambert
District 5 - Dan Elsener
District 8 - Carl Brockriede

Stay tuned for updates on our fall events! Updates will be published in our monthly member magazines (*Oklahoma Living* and *Texas Co-op Power*), on Facebook and at SWRE.com.

FAMILY PICNIC COLORING SHEET

An outdoor picnic is a great way to spend time with your family! Cooking outdoors also helps you save energy because you don't have to use appliances that heat up your home.





SUMMER SQUASH & BASIL PASTA

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium. Cook garlic, stirring occasionally, until very lightly browned around the edges, about 4 minutes. Add squash and increase heat to medium high; season with salt. Cook, tossing occasionally, until squash begins to break down. Turn down heat once it begins sticking, and continue to cook until the squash is jammy and soft, 12–15 minutes. Toss in 1 tsp. Aleppo-style pepper.

2. Meanwhile, cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until very al dente.

3. Transfer pasta to skillet with squash using a slotted spoon or spider and add ½ cup pasta cooking liquid. Cook pasta, adding 2 oz. Parmesan in stages along with more pasta cooking liquid as needed, until sauce coats pasta and pasta is al dente. Toss in lemon juice and most of the basil.

4. Divide pasta among bowls and top with more Parmesan and Aleppo-style pepper and remaining basil.

INGREDIENTS:

¼ cup olive oil	12 ounces paccheri, ziti, or other large tube pasta
8 garlic cloves, thinly sliced	2 ounces Parmesan, grated (about ½ cup), plus more for serving
2 pounds assorted summer squashes and zucchini, quartered lengthwise, sliced	1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
Kosher salt	½ cup basil leaves, divided
1 teaspoon Aleppo-style pepper, plus more for serving	

Source: Make use of those awesome summer veggies! This recipe can be found at <https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/summer-squash-and-basil-pasta>.

Trading Post

For Sale: Guinea chicks, \$3, located west of Altus. Call 580-471-8056.

For Sale: Premium horse hay, OSU Midland 99 Bermuda, small bales (35-40 pounds each), \$7 each. Call 580-471-7284.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

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