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YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

SOEC General Manager Appointed as District Representative for AMEC

Aaron Ash, General Manager of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, El Dorado Springs, was recently appointed as a district representative to the 2025-2026 term of the Member and Public Relations Committee for AMEC.

As a member of the Member and Public Relations Committee, he will oversee activities dealing with publications, communications and activities developed to bring about the understanding and support of the rural electric program by the general public, members and employees of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. This includes review of AMEC's award-winning statewide publication, Rural Missouri.

Activities considered by this committee will also include those initiated to build a strong and effective relationship between the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, its member systems and potential members.



SOEC Missouri Youth Tour Competition Wraps Up



Sac Osage Electric is concluding the Missouri Youth Tour and C.Y.C.L.E. Program for this year.

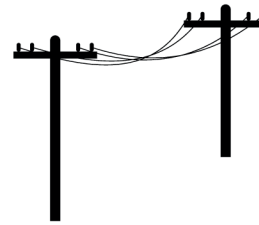
High school juniors within the Sac Osage Electric service area are invited to apply. Completed applications must be submitted to Sac Osage Electric by March 6, 2026. Applications may be emailed to ccyr@sacosage.com or mailed to:

Sac Osage Electric
Attn: Chance Cyr
P.O. Box 111
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744

From the submitted applications, five finalists will be chosen and invited to interviews on March 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Headquarters.

Out of these finalists, two winners will be selected. The top winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., while the runner-up will earn an all-expense-paid trip to Jefferson City. Both students will have the opportunity to explore museums and monuments, meet elected officials, and develop valuable leadership skills.

**MISSOURI YOUTH TOUR AND C.Y.C.L.E.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 6, 2026**



MARCH 2026

SOEC to Host Free First Responder Training

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will host a free safety training for area First Responders on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Headquarters.

This session is open to all Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatchers, and certified First Responders.

Training Objectives:

- Learn recommended safe distances for fires and motor vehicle accidents
- Understand the difference between transmission and distribution lines
- Identify the proper power provider using pole numbers
- Review proper dispatch information and key questions to ask
- AND MORE

The training will also feature a live line demonstration, offering a visual of the dangers associated with electrical lines.

To pre-register, contact Chance Cyr by March 13, 2026, at ccyr@sacosage.com or call 417-876-2721 ext. 5213.

In 2023, nearly 70 First Responders attended a similar session, and Sac Osage Electric hopes to see even greater participation this year. Refreshments will be provided.



SOEC Changes 2027 Calendar Contest



Each year, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative has featured photos submitted by our members in our annual calendar.

Beginning this year, we're making a change. Instead of using member-submitted photos, the calendar will now highlight images of our employees and the important work they do throughout the year.

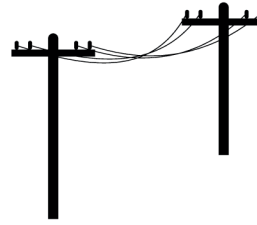
The 2027 calendar will consist of photographs taken by Sac Osage Electric Cooperative and their employees.

Always know the location of underground utilities!



Call 8-1-1 before you dig!

MOWING BIDS FOR YARD MAINTENANCE AT SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC HEADQUARTERS ARE DUE MARCH 13, 2026



Utility Scams in this Age of AI

Utility scams in this age of AI: How to spot and avoid fraud

Someone calls claiming to be from your utility company. They say your service will be cut off if you don't pay them immediately. Real utility companies don't do this. But scammers want to scare you into paying before you have time to confirm what they're telling you. And scammers are now using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to craft frauds that are difficult for consumers to detect. Learn how to protect yourself.

Beware of these common scam tactics

- Disconnection threats: Scammers claim your service will be cut off without immediate payment.
- Caller ID spoofing: Fraudsters use software to make their calls appear legitimate.
- Overpayment claims: They may say you've overpaid and ask for personal or banking information to issue a refund.
- Smishing: Scammers send fake text messages that seem to come from your utility company.
- Phishing attempts: Beware of emails that look like bills; always verify the sender's email before clicking links.

If you have any doubt about the status of your electric service, call your utility company using the customer service phone number on their website.

Watch for the following red flags

- High-pressure tactics that demand urgent action.
- Unusual payment method requests (wire transfer, gift cards, reloadable cards or cryptocurrency).
- Poor grammar, misspellings and suspicious email addresses.

AI use enhances utility scams

By leveraging AI-powered techniques, utility scammers

can create sophisticated and convincing frauds that are hard for consumers to recognize and avoid.

- AI helps scammers craft convincing emails that appear to be from legitimate utility companies and include the use of company colors and logos.
- Scammers use AI to create realistic-looking utility company websites that are nearly indistinguishable from legitimate ones.
- AI technology can clone the voices of utility company representatives, making phone scams convincing.
- AI analyzes victims' online presence and social media to create highly personalized spam related to your utility services.
- Scammers create geographically targeted online ads that appear when users search for keywords related to their energy bills.
- Scammers use AI to launch large-scale utility scam campaigns quickly and efficiently.

According to Kathy Stokes, AARP Director of Fraud Prevention Programs, "the ability of AI to improve and scale scam tactics is the equivalent of the Industrial Revolution for fraud criminals."

Protect yourself

- Take your time: Don't rush into payments or action.
- Verify any communication by calling your utility company directly using the number on your bill.
- Never share personal information. Legitimate companies won't ask for sensitive details over the phone.
- If someone claims to be a utility worker, request official identification.

If you suspect a scam, report it to Sac Osage Electric Cooperative and the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

You can find this article and other information from safeelectricity.org

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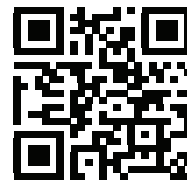
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*Restrictions apply. Promotion ends 3/31/26. Offer available for new residential Conexon Connect customers. Additional taxes and fees may apply. This offer may not be combined with any other offer. Once the promotional period concludes, the per-month rate will revert to the regular pricing of \$79.95 for 1 Gig package and \$99.95 for 2 Gig package. Customer may cancel promotion any time via the online portal by selecting "Cancel Service" under "Request Help."