



May 2015

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

P.O. Box 111, 4815 E HWY 54  
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
Telephone: 800-876-2701

Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)

## Safe Electricity®

### OBSERVE ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH THIS MAY

*Safe Electricity has tips and resources to help you stay safe around electricity*

Electricity is such a common presence in modern life that many people do not notice it until the power goes out or an electrical accident happens. May is the perfect time to broaden your knowledge of electricity since it is Electrical Safety Month. The information you need to brush up on your electrical safety knowledge is available at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

"Safe Electricity has educational materials available to the public," says Janna Dody, Communications Coordinator. "Please take time in May not only to learn more about electricity, but to share that knowledge with others."

One of the most compelling resources is the series of "Teach Learn Care TLC" videos, which feature the stories of people whose lives were affected by electrical accidents. The survivors and loved ones of those involved in electrical accidents want you to learn from their stories to avoid similar tragedies. Families at home, teenage drivers, construction workers, boaters and farmers are all featured—proving that electrical tragedies can strike anywhere.

Safe Electricity has a video featuring Kyle Finney's Live Line demonstration, which shows the dangers of high voltage electricity. You can see electrical arcs, find out what happens when a Mylar balloon comes in contact with power lines and

learn more about safety measures to take in and around the home. Safe Electricity also has a library of articles available to the public. You can also like Safe Electricity on Facebook to get timely updates and reminders about electrical safety.

If you would like a personal demonstration for a group, for kids or adults, Sac Osage Electric can provide a live demonstration. Call 417-876-2721 to schedule a FREE demonstration.

Safe Electricity hopes you will observe electrical safety month and encourage friends and family to do the same. Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



**Just a friendly reminder  
that May is catch up  
month for those members  
on Budget Billing.**



**OUR OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, MAY 25TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

## Be kind to animals week

The American Humane Association has designated the first full week in May (May 3 to 9 this year) as a time to appreciate pets and other animals. Dogs and cats were once worshipped as gods in some societies. In the 11th century, a dog called Saur was



named king of Norway by his master, the actual ruler, who was angry with his subjects for having once deposed him. English writer Samuel Johnson fed his favorite cat, Hodge, fresh oysters every day, while U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt invited the extra-toed cat, Slippers, to diplomatic dinners.

## Tornadoes

Most tornadoes in the United States occur in May, often striking suddenly and without warning, and few natural phenomena are harder to predict. Folk wisdom advises that a "pale green sky means the wind is high." In other words, the sky turns green just before a tornado forms. Although



no one knows for certain why this happens, one theory suggests that because storms usually develop in the afternoon, the longer wavelengths (red and yellow) of afternoon sunlight (already deficient in blue) turn the bluish, water-heavy clouds green.

## Spring cleaning

Spring cleaning took on another permutation in 1901 when British engineer Hubert Booth invented the first practical electric vacuum cleaner. Unlike the vacuums we know today, his version was sent out with a cleaning crew in vehicles. They went door to door,



offering the services of his machine to vacuum the dust and dirt out of the house using long tubes. In 1907, the Hoover Suction Sweeper Co. improved on the design, and then again, in 1921, a Swedish electric lamp salesman produced further developments and started the Electrolux Co.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

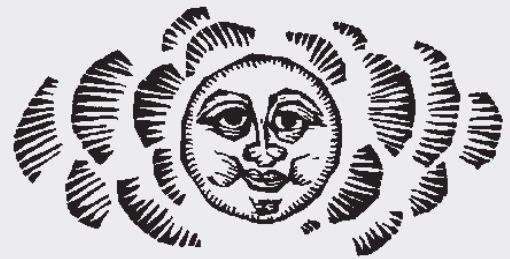
### Recipe for Dog Biscuits



- 3-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 3 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup powdered milk
- 1/2 cup bacon grease
- 2 teaspoons cod liver oil
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups instant beef gravy

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Combine all ingredients to make a sticky dough. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 50 minutes. Cool on rack and then store in plastic bags. Makes about 30 dog biscuits.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**If owls hoot at night, expect fair weather.**

**A cold May is kindly, and fills the barn finely.**

**With dew before midnight, the next day will sure be bright.**

**A red sun has water in his eye.**

**When the thrush sings at sunset, a fair day will follow.**

**Clover contracts its leaves at the approach of a storm.**

**Wind roaring into the chimney, there is rain to come.**

**A late spring is a great blessing.**

**The weather usually clears at noon when a southerly wind is blowing.**

# Ready for anything

*Shopping for a backup generator? Consult the experts.*

**Dear Jim: When severe weather hits, I want to be prepared. I'm considering the purchase of a backup generator for my home. What types would you recommend to take care of the entire house? — Jon H.**



by Jim Dulley

These days, people depend on electricity for nearly every activity, so purchasing a backup generator is becoming more common.

Residential backup generators are called standby models because they are only used when electricity from the utility grid fails. They are designed to run for a relatively short period of time until power is restored. Outages like this usually last between a few hours and a couple of days.

First, you must decide how much of your home you'd like to power in order to determine the size of backup generator you will need. There are common necessities, such as refrigeration and lighting, which you will definitely need. Others, such as air-conditioning, washing/drying clothes and vacuuming may not be top priority during a power outage.

Backup generators are sized by their kilowatt electricity output. A 12-KW generator can power most electrical needs of a typical family of four. If you can eliminate nonessentials, a smaller, less expensive unit will be adequate, and the fuel costs to operate it will be less.

To get an idea of the size of generator you will need, list all of electric items you want to power, and total the wattages for all of these. Appliances with motors often require more electricity at start-up time, so remember to round up when determining the total wattage. A contractor or installation expert also can advise you on the proper size. It should be noted that installing a whole-house backup generator is not a do-it-yourself project.

For convenience and safety (for both your family and your electric co-op's line workers), install an ATS (automatic transfer switch). This switch senses when the grid electricity goes off or the voltage drops below a critical point (also known as a brownout). It automatically disconnects your home's wiring from the utility grid and starts the generator. This occurs quickly, so there is little down time.

The ATS also runs the generator periodically (called exercising) to ensure everything is working properly. You may hear the generator start the exercise cycle, so don't be alarmed — the power may not be off.

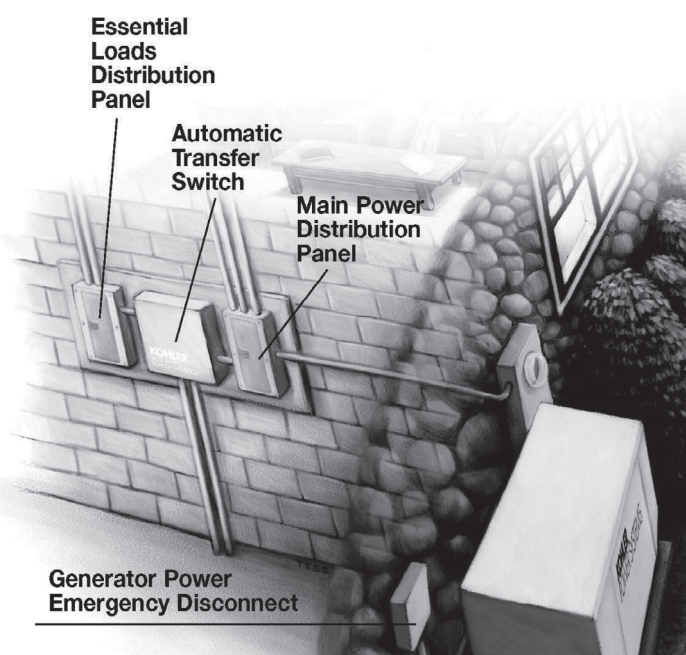
If you have natural gas available at your house, this is the best fuel to power the backup generator. Natural gas engines run cleanly, require little maintenance and they are also relatively inexpensive to run. Also, if you have natural gas, you probably have a gas furnace for heat, so the size of the generator required is generally smaller.

Another clean-running fuel for a backup generator is propane. Many homes with electric heat still have propane available for cooking. In order to power a whole-house generator, a larger propane tank would be required. Even though propane is considered a clean running fuel, it is more expensive to use than natural gas.



photos courtesy of Kohler

**Above:** Shrubs and other landscaping can be planted around the backup generator to hide it from view. Leave enough clearance around it for adequate airflow. **Below:** This shows the typical electrical connection from a backup generator to the house wiring.



shelf life of the diesel fuel is only a couple of years — even with a stabilizer — and the overall cost of installing a diesel generator will be higher. However, one advantage of using diesel is that you always can pour more fuel into the tank if you need to run the generator longer than originally expected.

Another option is a smaller, less-expensive portable gasoline-powered generator with several electrical outlets. This will provide enough electricity for the refrigerator and several lamps. These models also provide enough power to operate the blower in a gas, propane or oil furnace for heat.

Never attempt to plug this type of generator into an electrical outlet with a homemade double-male cord. This can back-feed 120-volt current onto the

grid, which is dangerous for utility line crews. For more information on backup generators, contact your local electric cooperative or speak with a qualified contractor.

*Do you have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? Email him at [contact@dulleu.com](mailto:contact@dulleu.com) or write to: James Dulleu, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royal-*



## SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC REMINDS MEMBERS TO DIG SAFELY

Missouri One Call System wants to remind Missouri residents to always call 1-800-DIG-RITE, or 811, or click on [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com) before any digging project.

By calling 1-800-DIG-RITE, or 811, or clicking on [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com), homeowners and contractors are connected to Missouri One Call System's call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. A utility line is damaged by digging once every three minutes nationwide, and one-third of these incidents are caused by failure of the homeowner or professional excavator to notify Missouri One Call before beginning their digging project.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

No matter how large, or small, every digging project warrants a call to 1-800-DIG-RITE, or 811, or a click to [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com). Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call, or click into Missouri One Call's call center.

"April marks the traditional start of digging season. During this time we are strongly reminding individuals and companies of the importance to always call 1-800-DIG-RITE, or 811 or click [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com) three working days before they begin digging," said Rodger Culbertson, Line Superintendent. "By

calling, or clicking to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners and professionals are making an important decision that can help keep them and their community safe and connected."

Remember, the depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

For more information on Missouri One Call, visit their website at [www.mo1call.com](http://www.mo1call.com).



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help save on energy costs, especially with warm weather now approaching. Check to ensure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and the inside wall fitting and is not kinked or clogged. Inspect the outside vent to make sure it opens and closes. Always clean the lint trap before use.

# can you **dig** it?

## Before you dig, get the dirt.

Underground utilities exist everywhere, even in your yard.

Whether you're a homeowner or excavator, digging without knowing where it's safe to dig can cause tremendous damage and even loss of lives.

**1-800-DIG-RITE**  
or **811**  
**mo1call.com**

**Get the scoop.  
Call Or Click  
Before You Dig.**

