



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**LANE-SCOTT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# Connections

## Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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**Dow Morris**  
Assistant Manager

**Nate Burns**  
Manager of Electrical Operations

**Katherine Lewis**  
Manager of Financial Services

**Bob Venters**  
Resale Manager

### In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

### Happy Thanksgiving

Lane-Scott wishes our members a Happy Thanksgiving. Our offices will be closed November 28-29 in observance of the holiday.

## Lane-Scott Uses AMI to Increase Efficiency & Empower Members

For the past several months, Lane-Scott Electric has installed more efficient digital meters in our service territory.

These new meters allow us to bring a new technology to our members' homes through an Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system. These meters are automated and report use information back to our office by radio frequency on a regular basis.

There are several reasons Lane-Scott chose to install digital meters. Lower operating costs, efficiency, reliability and improved accuracy are all advantages to the AMI system. With this technology we will receive instantaneous meter reads and will know within seconds when a power outage occurs. The system can tell us the location, the extent of an outage, and details that save line crews time, which will result in quicker power restoration.

Some other advantages of the new AMI system are load management options, alerts of tampering or theft, and remote disconnects and reconnects.

"As of the end of September, we have 1,800 of the meters installed in our service area," said Nate Burns, Lane-Scott Electric Manager of Operations. "We have approximately 3,800 meters left to install, and we hope to be fully deployed before the end of 2014."

The additional data allows a member to pinpoint problems and get an accurate look at usage history. This can identify things like a forgotten space heater or a failing freezer compressor.

"We want our members to have the ability to know the best ways to save money and be more energy efficient," said General Manager Ed Wiltse. "By installing these new digital meters, we look forward to the day our members will have the knowledge and

power to control their energy consumption."

Lane-Scott Electric is also researching an application called SmartHub, which members could use to get information provided by the AMI meters.

For example, if an electric bill is unusually high one month and the member doesn't know why, he can login to SmartHub and see when usage increased. SmartHub could give members the information they need to have more control over their energy use.

SmartHub is available in mobile applications and online to give members secure access to account information, to view bills, see payment history, make payments, set-up recurring payments, and report outages. Both versions use graphics, charts and use markers that allow members to monitor and manage use.



# Surviving Auto Accidents Involving Power Lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Lane-Scott wants our members to know: If your vehicle hits a power pole or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle, call 911 and wait until a power company representative arrives on the scene and tells you that it is safe to leave your vehicle.

Lane-Scott knows that when people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind. However, we urge you to remember that by exiting the vehicle, you're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. They also helped others who approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

Last April in Kansas, a school bus driver with three children on board was driving as sleet and



**Exiting a vehicle in contact with a power pole, like this bus in northeast Kansas, before contacting the utility can be very dangerous. If your vehicle hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until Lane-Scott arrives to ensure that lines have been de-energized before exiting.**

snow fell. The bus hit a slick spot and slid off the road and struck an electric pole, causing the utility pole to fall across the bus. Fortunately the lines were not energized. Despite the potential danger, the bus driver had the students exit the bus. No one was hurt. As a result, the local cooperative conducted safety demonstrations for local bus drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside your vehicle. Only in rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together and hopping away with your feet still together. Never touch the vehicle again after you leave it. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow which is why one should get out only if forced to.

For more information on electrical safety, visit YouTube and search for videos by SafeElectricity.

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