

Energy Partners



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

2024 New-Mac University

Cooperative's free seminar series set for April



New-Mac University is a wonderful opportunity for members to learn the ins and outs of what goes on at their cooperative. The classes have covered everything from how to be energy efficient tips to how power gets to your home.

Our Member Services department is excited to kick off another year of our New-Mac University program. Your cooperative uses this opportunity to get face-to-face with those we serve.

Classes resume April 23 and 25 when students can take in the topic: "Rate Overview & Infrastructure Update"

New-Mac University is an ongoing free seminar series offered by the co-op. Each course of New-Mac University is independent of previous sessions. Participants may

choose to attend whichever classes suit their interests and will not be behind if they missed other offerings.

"Rate Overview & Infrastructure Update" will be an informative look into New-Mac's first rate increase in eight years and what set it in motion. The class will cover the competition

See *New-Mac U* page 3

NEW-MAC UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION

Member Name(s) _____

Acct. # _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Number in Household Attending _____

We will be attending New-Mac University:

(circle which class you will attend)

April 23
at Neosho

April 25
at Anderson

 **Cut out and send in with your bill payment**

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of and related to the cooperative.



Maintaining smoke and CO alarms

Proper maintenance will help protect your family

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are essential for protecting your family from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. But if they aren't working properly, if the batteries have expired, or if the device itself has expired, they cannot protect you. That's why it's so important to make sure your devices are properly maintained and inspected throughout the year.

Follow this maintenance schedule to keep your family safe.

It's easy to forget about checking smoke and CO alarms. But it's critical that you keep them in good working condition. Get into the habit of checking and maintaining them according to this schedule and you'll have peace of mind of knowing you're helping keep your family safe.

- Test your smoke and CO alarms every month.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- Smoke alarms with any other battery and CO alarms need a new battery at least once per year. If the alarm chirps, warning you that the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. Alarms are labeled with the date of manufacture. If there's no label, they are more than ten years old and must be replaced.
- Replace CO alarms every 5 to 7 years (depending on the manufacturer's instructions).

When it comes to alarms, buyer beware!

There are many options to choose from, and most are quality products. But be aware that there are counterfeit alarms on the market, so always choose products from reputable, well-known brands. Be sure to purchase alarms that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL).

Using smoke alarms

According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), three of every five home fire deaths result-

ed from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or alarms that weren't working properly. Here are a few guidelines to help you use these life-saving alarms properly.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, with one in every bedroom.
- Consider interconnected alarms. These allow other alarms to sound if one detects smoke.
- A "chirping" sound indicates that the battery has expired. Replace the battery immediately.
- Have a fire escape plan for your family and practice it twice a year.

CO alarm tips

CO alarms are just as important as smoke alarms. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that is impossible to detect without an alarm because it is colorless and odorless. It is created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Here are some tips to help you use CO alarms safely and effectively.

- Install CO alarms on every level of your home.
- Alarms should be installed within 10 feet of bedroom doors and according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure to have a CO alarm on any level with fuel-burning appliances.

See *Alarms* page 4



○ RATES

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between fossil fuels and renewables, then we will wrap up the class with an explanation of the grid/wholesale power and how it impacts your cooperative. It's our hope that this will be a perfect platform for members to ask questions in relation to any cooperative services and provide feedback.

These topics will be featured April 23 at New-Mac's Neosho headquarters. The same class will be offered at the co-op's Anderson office on April 25. Classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. at both locations.

While New-Mac University courses are always free, the co-op does ask that members RSVP so that proper accommodations can be made. The class should take no more than 90 minutes. Refreshments will be made available.

Members may RSVP in the following ways:

- By filling out the form (pg. 1) and sending it in with your bill payment



Class Topics:

Rate Overview & Infrastructure Update

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 23 @ Neosho
6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 25 @ Anderson

- By calling our office at 417-451-1515 or 800-322-3849
- Or, by visiting newmac.com and completing a simple online registration form on the NMU webpage.

Severe weather brings challenges; being prepared is how we stay safe

Providing reliable electrical service to the membership safely is New-Mac Electric's number one goal. Your cooperative is constantly performing system upgrades, maintenance and right-of-way trimming. However, severe weather, especially ice and wind, can challenge even the best of electrical distribution systems.

New-Mac reminds members to be prepared and keep the following supplies on hand:

- Flashlight (with extra batteries) and candles.
- Battery-powered radio.
- Bottled water and non-perishable food items.
- Manual can opener.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Back-up heating source – NEVER use a charcoal grill to cook or heat inside!
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector

In the event of outages, New-Mac members should have their map number (location number) ready and call 417-451-1515 or 800-322-3849. If the phone lines are busy, that likely means your neighbors are calling in, and with hundreds

of outages being reported, lines will be busy. However, please try to report your outage at least once in the event damage was isolated to a power line serving only your home.

During extended outages, members can get updates on the restoration efforts on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NewMacElectric, Twitter page, [@NewMacElectric](https://twitter.com/NewMacElectric), and our Instagram page [@newmacelectric](https://www.instagram.com/newmacelectric). Please DO NOT report outages through social media. Outages must be called into our dispatch.

New-Mac also reminds everyone to never approach downed power lines as they may be energized.





○ Alarms

Continued from page 2

- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- A generator should NEVER be used indoors. Only operate generators in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use them outdoors.

Stay safe when traveling

When you are planning an adventure with your friends or family, the last thing you likely think about is if your destination has a smoke or CO alarm. Whether you're embarking on a road trip, staying in accommodations, or enjoying outdoor activities, understanding the risks associated with carbon monoxide and taking preventive measures can significantly enhance your safety. Here are a few things to remember when traveling:

- **Install and Maintain CO Alarms:** Just like smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms are essential safety devices for any traveler. Install CO alarms in your RV, camper or wherever you are staying. Ensure they are operational and equipped with fresh batteries and test them regularly to ensure they are functioning correctly, just as you would at home.
- **Know the Sources of Carbon Monoxide:** Be aware of potential sources of carbon monoxide during your travels. These may include vehicles, generators, por-

table heaters, grills, stoves and even idling engines in enclosed spaces. Proper ventilation is key to minimizing CO buildup.

- **Avoid Using Fuel-Burning Appliances Indoors:** Never use fuel-burning appliances such as portable stoves, grills or camping heaters inside tents, RVs or other enclosed spaces. Even if you crack a window open, it may not provide sufficient ventilation to prevent CO buildup.
- **Regular Maintenance of Vehicles and Equipment:** Ensure that your vehicle, including the exhaust system, is properly maintained. Have it inspected regularly for any leaks or malfunctions that could result in CO emissions. The same applies to other fuel-burning equipment you may use during your travels.
- **Be Vigilant in Shared Accommodations:** If staying in a hotel, rental property or other shared accommodation, familiarize yourself with the location of smoke and CO alarms and emergency exits. Report any malfunctioning alarms or suspicious odors to the management immediately. You may want to check before you go to ensure your accommodations have smoke and CO alarms installed. This is especially true if you are traveling internationally as they may not be required in the country where you will be staying. You can purchase portable CO alarms that you can bring with you on your travels, if needed.

DO YOU HAVE RATE QUESTIONS?



SCAN TO TELL US YOUR QUESTION. WE WILL ANSWER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE IN THE UPCOMING ENERGY PARTNERS.

Management Team:

CEO/General Manager - Stan Irsik
System Engineer - Jeff Crites
Executive Assistant - Linda Crosby
Manager of Billing Services - Josh King
Manager of Marketing - Mark K. Rakes
Operations Manager - Jeremiah Taylor
Controller - Marti Wiley

Main Office:

P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East
Highway 86
Neosho, Missouri 64850

District Office:

9 Mustang Lane
Anderson, Missouri 64831

Phone: 417/451-1515
800/322-3849

Fax: 417/451-9042

Pay-by-Phone: 855/874-5348

Office Hours:

Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Anderson — 8 to 11:30 a.m.,
12:30 to 5 p.m.

Board of Directors:

District 1 - Bruce Youngblood
District 2 - Tim Short
District 3 - Richard Leavens
District 4 - Beryl Kennedy
District 5 - Billy P. White
District 6 - Paul Sprenkle
District 7 - Maurice Mailles
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