



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Angie Erickson
CEO

Board of Trustees

Bryan Coover
President

Larry Hubbell
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Hucke
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Diane McCartney
Trustee

Jared Nash
Trustee

Jason Zwahlen
Trustee

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us

1511 14,000 Rd.
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop



Twin Valley Employs ‘Outage Detectives’

Losing electricity can be frustrating, but Twin Valley is always looking for ways to get the power back on as soon and safely as possible.

Whether it's severe summer weather like a tornado or straight-line winds, or a fallen tree, as soon as an outage is detected, Twin Valley is working to correct the problem. And thanks to new and more advanced technologies, we can restore power outages faster than ever.

Powering up after an outage starts on a larger level and ends up in local areas. First, high-voltage transmission lines are examined, then distribution stations, then main distribution lines. If the outage can't be pinpointed to these areas, tap lines and individual homes are inspected. This process allows Twin Valley to efficiently help the most members in the shortest amount of time, and we are working to make this process move even faster.

One of the biggest advancements in technology that Twin Valley is using is Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). These meters allow for two-way communication and work by sending information back to the co-op's operations center. This helps to distinguish between events that affect a single home or multiple outages, which is important, as solving either issue is a very different process. The two-way communication also provides a way to verify power has been restored after an outage.

Another technology is the Outage Management System (OMS), which can predict the location of the issue and how many members are impacted. Especially when used with the AMI system, the OMS can be extremely useful in resolving an outage. As the AMI collects and sends data, the OMS then analyzes the data using mathematical functions and models the electrical network to assess the impact of the outage.

A technology being tested by electric co-ops is capable of predicting outages before they happen. Distribution Fault Anticipation (DFA) can detect tree branches hanging on power lines, damaged equipment and unusual, unrecognized events. By identifying these issues, co-ops can more efficiently dispatch crews and prevent outages before they happen.

One of the major benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather, is understanding where the outages are located, which helps to reduce risk for our co-op crews out on the road during weather events. These technologies also clearly benefit our members with improved outage response times.

Power outages are inevitable, but as technology improves, disruptions are becoming shorter and easier to resolve and Twin Valley is dedicated to using those technologies that make the most (dollars and) sense for our cooperative.

Converting a ‘Dumb’ Home to a Smart One: Is it Worth it?

Depending on your age, your techie factor or perhaps your interests, you may or may not be excited at the prospect of installing smart devices in your home. Becoming more and more a part of our vocabulary, having a “smart home” or even a semi-smart one can help make the many tasks we do each day less time consuming and more fun.

So what, exactly, are smart homes? They are houses that boast a number of interconnected devices and home appliances that perform certain actions or functions. Smart-home performance is often more efficient than the owner-operated kind, which could save money. Other high-tech, smarty-pants devices won’t save much on your utility bills but can increase your home’s cool factor.

Smart home automation allows you to program a variety of items ranging from a smart thermostat, lights, window blinds and even an automatic pet-feeding bowl (now if only smart automation could do dishes and make lunch).

If all your devices are interconnected, you can orchestrate them from one place on your tablet or cell phone. And if you

have voice-assisted technology, you can just use your words, and presto! — the coffee maker starts or your lights turn on or off.

In many upper-end markets, buyers can consider a new home that is already smart, but for the majority of homeowners it can cost in the thousands to upgrade an entire home with multiple smart devices. If your house has not yet arrived on the smart scene, there are ways to increase your home’s smart technology.

Examples include smart thermostats, gizmos that track energy use such as individual smart plugs or whole-house monitoring trackers to improve your energy “fitness” and smart lighting that includes motion sensors and phone app controls.

Smart appliances and devices can save money because in many cases they allow you to use less energy. They’re also convenient, fun to use and can give you peace of mind. In short, some may be worth it in the long run.

And a new home that’s certified smart or even super intelligent? We can all dream, can’t we?

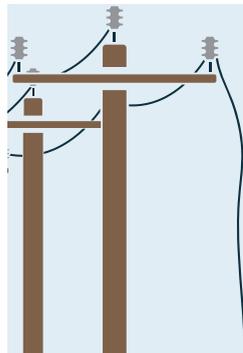
Stay Back from Lines and Crews and Stay Safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That’s why safety is the No. 1 priority at Twin Valley. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews’ safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help!

Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes full attention for linemen and their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team’s safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property



KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

When power lines go down, take these precautions to stay safe:

- ▶ Call 911 to report fallen or downed power lines.
- ▶ Know that power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- ▶ Stay at least 10 feet away from the line.
- ▶ If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, remain in the vehicle until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- ▶ If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle — DO NOT WALK, but hop to safety at least 50 feet away.

during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can’t distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without pet “supervision.”

We recognize for your family’s safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Twin Valley employees by their uniform and the service trucks with our name and logo

on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community. If you are ever unsure a worker is authorized to be handling electrical equipment on or near your property, please call us. We are happy to let you know if our crews are working in your community.

Slow down and move over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.