

The Circuit!

September 2022

A publication for our Members
in the counties of
*Atoka • Bryan • Choctaw
Coal • Johnston*



How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfires

The scorching temperatures we have seen this summer have drastically dried up the ground and vegetation where we live. If you have been watching the news, you are no stranger to the detrimental wildfires that have been sparking up across the US. At SEC, safety of every kind is always our top priority. Our Director of Safety, Trevor Matlock, would like to share the following information with our Members in the event that wildfires begin to occur in our area:

■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the **Intermediate Zone** (5 to 30 feet), and the **Extended Zone** (30 to 100 feet).

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

■ FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

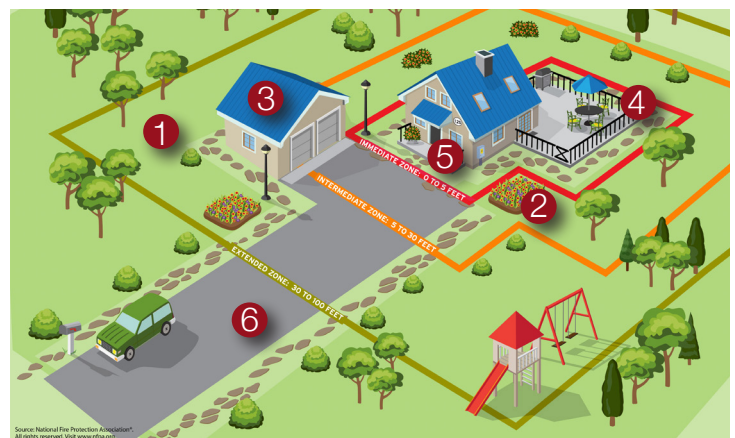
Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.

■ BE PREPARED

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling pets, large animals, and livestock.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY
OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK**

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

FIRST PUBLISHED-SEPT/OCT 2021 SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

To inform the Membership of the upcoming
\$1.50 increase in the Customer Charge

Trustees Approve Rate Revision

By Jim Coleman

The Southeastern Electric Cooperative (SEC) Board of Trustees is responsible for adopting rate policies that allows the Co-op to collect the revenue necessary to ensure safe, dependable electric service and to maintain all financial ratios as required by the Rural Utility Services (RUS). Based on the August approval of the Cost of Service study, SEC will implement a rate increase for September billing for all classes of consumers.

SEC's last Cost of Service Study and Rate Revision was conducted in 2013. The Board of Trustees working closely with Management has managed the revenues and expenses of the Co-op these past eight (8) years in a very responsible and efficient manner.

SEC Board of Trustees called upon C. H. Guernsey & Company of Oklahoma City to conduct this "Cost of Service Study." This study provides an in-depth analysis of the Cooperative's power costs, revenues and expenses associated with each rate class. A full report was presented to the Trustees at the February 2021 Board meeting and again at the August 2021 meeting, detailing Guernsey's analysis and recommendation of fair and equitable rate treatment of each rate class.

SEC's Residential members will notice only a moderate adjustment to the kilowatt hour billing rate. The most noticeable increase is that of the Customer Charge (currently \$20.00), moving up a \$1.50. This new increase will repeat each year until the 3rd year when it will be set at \$24.50.

Your Cooperative leaders made a thorough evaluation into all the financial and human factors involved before making their recommendation. SEC will continue to do everything possible to hold down costs while delivering you safe and reliable electric service.

A side by side comparison of the rate revision for each Rate Class is listed below of this OFFICIAL NOTICE. If you have any questions concerning the rate revision, please contact us at (580) 745-9463 or e-mail our office at jcoleman@se-coop.com.

2021 Cost of Service Study (COSS) – Rate Revision

Board of Trustees Approved August 24, 2021

Implementation Date: October Billing (September Usage)

RESIDENTIAL RATE CLASS:

	2013	2021	2022	2023
	<u>Existing Rate</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Monthly Customer Charge -	\$20.00	\$21.50	\$23.00	\$24.50
Energy Charge Summer -	\$0.093596	\$0.091768	\$0.091768	\$0.091768
Winter -	\$0.087569	\$0.091768	\$0.091768	\$0.091768
Power Cost Adjustment -	*-/+	*As applicable	*As applicable	*As applicable
*Customer Charge increases \$1.50 each year for the first 3 years only.				



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