



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

### 2020 Election & Annual Meeting

As an electric cooperative member, you have a say in how the cooperative is run and the decisions that are made. One way to

participate and learn more about KEC is to attend the annual membership meeting and vote in our election. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing have created some challenges for KEC's traditional annual meeting plans. The annual meeting, originally scheduled in May, has been rescheduled for July 8, 2020 at the KEC office in Hayden.

To facilitate this meeting without requiring a quorum of 150 members to participate in person, we will be conducting an election by mail and online. Watch your email and mailbox in early June for details about our election. For your convenience, you can vote by mail ballot or online. **Please note: in-person voting will not be available at the Annual Meeting.**

#### Election Prizes

Members who cast their votes online and have a KEC SmartHub account will be entered into a drawing for a \$300 KEC bill credit or Visa gift card (member's choice). Visit [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) to learn how you can register as a SmartHub user. Those voting by mail or online without a SmartHub account will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 KEC bill credits or Visa gift cards.

#### Annual Meeting Details

**When:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020  
Registration: 5:30-6 p.m.  
Meeting: 6-6:20 p.m.

**Where:** Kootenai Electric Cooperative Headquarters  
2451 W. Dakota Ave. in Hayden

The meeting will also be streamed live on Facebook.

**Continued on the third page.**

### TAKE YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 BILL CREDIT

**We know that many things are challenging right now. Managing your KEC account and electricity shouldn't be one of them.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has everyone spending a lot more time at home, which makes it a great time to start managing your KEC account online through SmartHub. With SmartHub, you can pay your electric bill, report power outages and monitor your energy use from your computer or smartphone. Members with a SmartHub account by May 31, 2020, will be automatically entered into a drawing for one of ten \$50 electric bill credits! Learn more about how to get started at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com).



# Join the KEC Community Solar Project



There's still time to participate in KEC's Community

Solar Project. Solar energy generation varies significantly in our area from winter to summer and as we move into summer we look forward to increased energy production.

The 50KW solar array is located in Worley. The solar array is divided into 288 units and each unit is expected to generate approximately

234 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. Members may purchase individual units of power for \$437.

### It works like this:

KEC takes care of all the costs including maintenance and insurance. Members purchase units of power that represent a portion of the energy produced by the solar array through 2042. Members will receive a kWh credit on their bills according to the number of units of power they own.

### What happens if you move:

You may keep your unit(s) as long as you stay within KEC's service territory. If you move outside of the service territory, you may transfer the unit(s) to another active KEC member or KEC will buy back the unit(s) at a pro-rated price.

To sign up contact us at **208.765.1200 or [kec@kec.com](mailto:kec@kec.com)**.



### WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

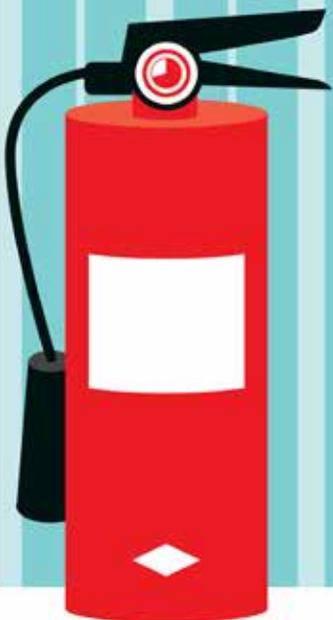
To the right are 10 KEC account numbers. If you find your number contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill.

- 1823155
- 1351611
- 1538010
- 1843600
- 1837994
- 1718630
- 1517860
- 1834852
- 1255265
- 1837607

### KEC CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY

KEC will be closed on May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

**Kootenai Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer**



**NEVER** use water to extinguish an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher or baking soda instead.

May is National Electrical Safety Month



plug into safety

## ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Before you start any digging project be sure to call 811. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 gets underground utility-owned lines marked for free.

## KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—call 208.292.3211 for details.

## ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION CONTINUED

KEC's bylaws state that we are required to hold an annual meeting. Since we do not know what the state of COVID-19 will be in July, we may need to limit the number of attendees. Because of this, we are implementing some changes to this year's meeting to protect our members and employees from unnecessary risk. The meeting will be condensed to only what is required by KEC's bylaws. Cooperative updates offered to members attending the annual meeting will instead be summarized in

our written annual report and through other venues such as our *PowerLines*. Regrettably, food and beverages will not be served and prizes/gifts will not be distributed this year. For the safety of our members and employees, please stay home if you are feeling sick or have flu-like symptoms.

I encourage you to take the time to vote. Your voice counts and is important to us. Please contact us at 208.765.1200 or [kec@kec.com](mailto:kec@kec.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



**Doug Elliott**  
General Manager

# WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

**Accidents happen.** Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

## IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or Kootenai Electric Cooperative for help.

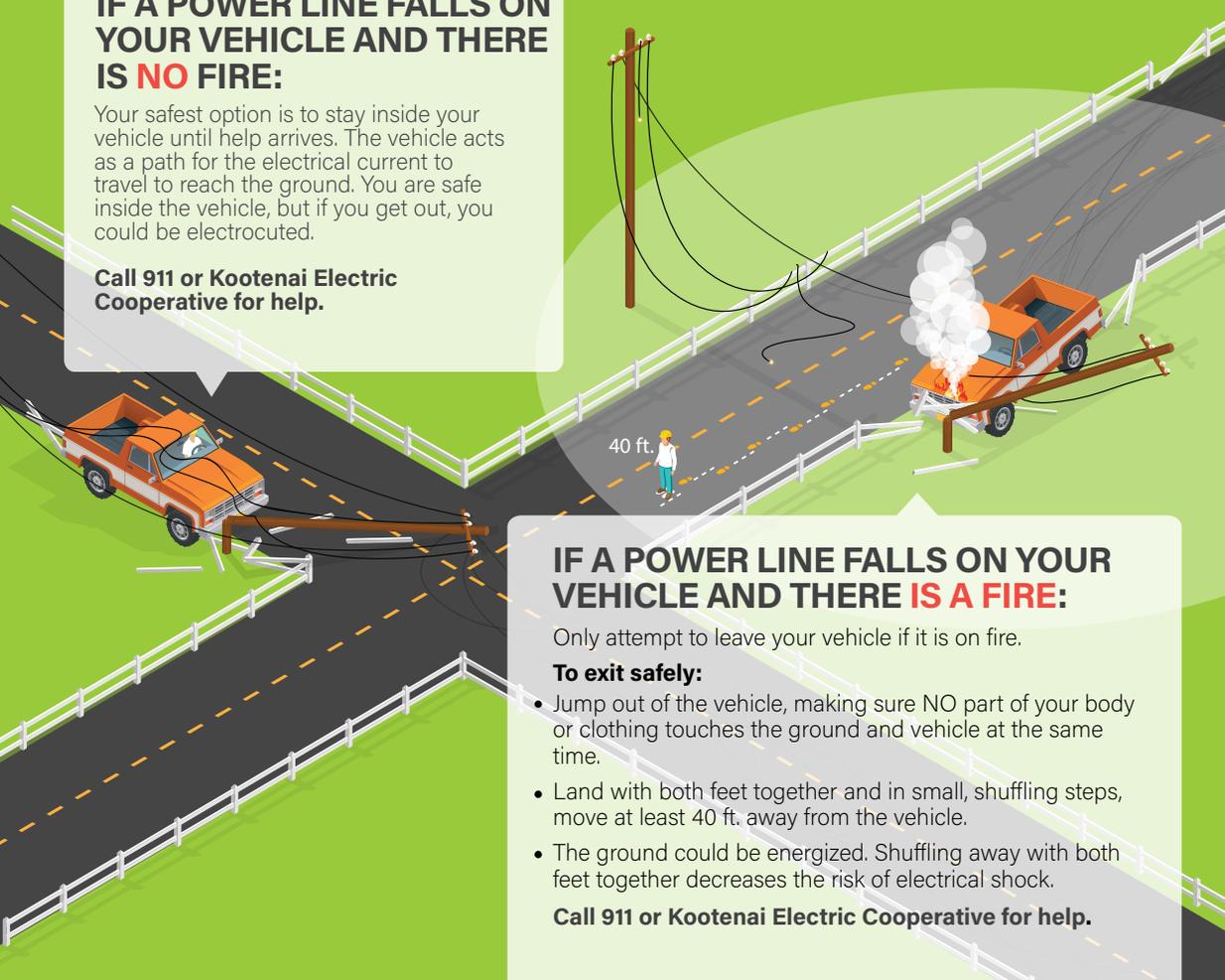
## IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **A** FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

### To exit safely:

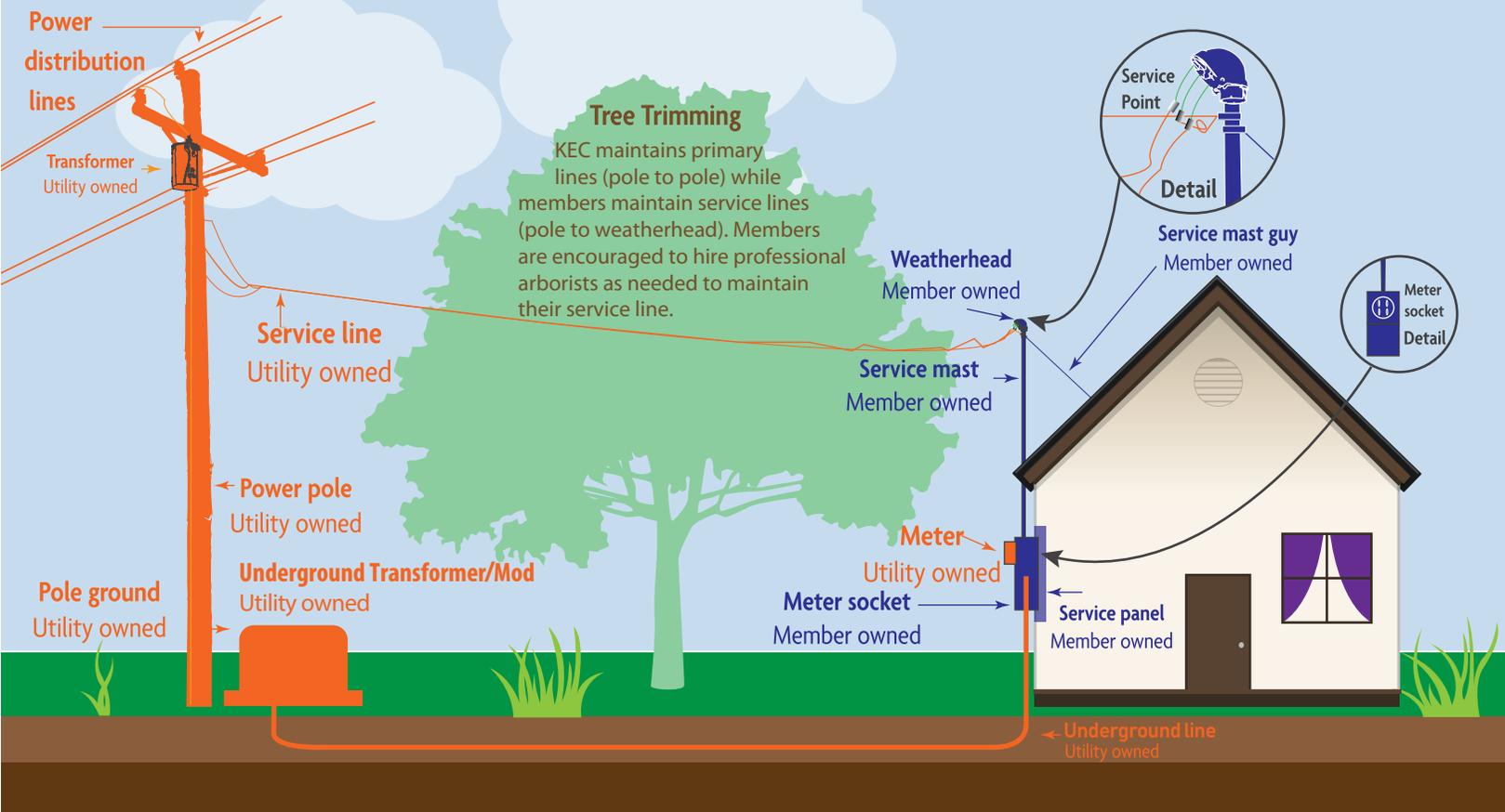
- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or Kootenai Electric Cooperative for help.



# Who Owns What?

## Kootenai Electric vs Member-Owned Electric Equipment



Knowing the safety precautions and legal responsibilities of your electric service is important for all KEC members. You may not be aware which equipment is the homeowner's responsibility and which is KEC's responsibility. Electric meters are the property of KEC. Removing the meter with current flowing through it can lead to an electrical explosion. The person working with the meter could be injured or killed. If you're planning on doing electrical work, contact KEC and we will send certified personnel to your site. Under no circumstance should meters be removed or relocated—temporarily or permanently—by anyone other than authorized KEC employees.

For overhead service, KEC is responsible for the cable that runs from the utility pole to your home. This wire is called a "service line." The service line connects to your house at the "service mast," a vertical pipe-like structure attached to the top of the box that houses your electric meter. The service mast and the box that holds the meter are the homeowner's property and responsibility. Please keep the area around your meter box clear so KEC employees can access it if needed.

For underground service, KEC is responsible for the transformer, the underground wire from the transformer to the meter, and the meter. If you have any questions about your electric service responsibilities, please call KEC at 208.765.1200. You can also view the Electric Service Handbook at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com).