



# POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

[www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com)

- Lunch will be served after the meeting
- Door Prizes
- Giveaways
- Elect Three (3) Trustees



August 3, 2024



Cloudcroft High School Gym  
Cloudcroft, NM

**REGISTRATION - 8:30 AM**  
**BUSINESS MEETING - 10:00 AM**



JULY CALENDAR PHOTO  
submitted by Kelli Pruett

**JULY  
2024**

**CLOUDCROFT**  
575-682-2521

**ALTO**  
575-336-4550

**CARRIZOZO**  
575-648-2352

**LOBBY HOURS**  
8 AM - 4 PM  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

**TO REPORT AN  
OUTAGE, CALL**  
1-800-548-4660

**FOR BALANCE  
INFORMATION OR TO  
PAY YOUR BILL, CALL**  
1-855-940-3957

[WWW.OCEC-INC.COM](http://WWW.OCEC-INC.COM)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, reduce the timer to about half what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

*Source: energy.gov*

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- Del Monte Road - Alto
- Cloud Country West - Cloudcroft
- Young Canyon - Cloudcroft
- Mescalero

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs, and crew members from Rogers Tree Service cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an OCEC contractor placard.

## SOUTH FORK FIRE CAUSES EXTENSIVE DAMAGE

On June 17, 2024, the South Fork fire began burning on the Mescalero Apache Reservation, south of Grindstone Lake. Winds gusted, and plumes of smoke rose higher as the day went on. Shortly after 5 PM, residents of Ruidoso and Alto were forced to evacuate the beautiful mountain region as the wildfire raged, threatening homes and businesses in its path.

By the following morning, the path of destruction left behind was devastating. Over a thousand structures were leveled, and blackened tree trunks were all that was left of so many beautiful green pines. Communication equipment was destroyed, leaving cell phone and internet services inoperable, and electric service to around 1,200 OCEC members was affected.

Crews assessed the damage to determine what repairs would be needed to restore electricity to members. Soon after, crews from OCEC, ARC Power Line Construction, Soler Electric, Rogers Tree Service, Roosevelt Electric Cooperative, and Penasco Gravel began restoration efforts.

By Sunday, June 23, just a week after the nightmare began, crews were able to restore electric service to the Alto area. The long hours and hard work, often at the expense of personal comfort, were crucial in achieving this impressive feat. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and sacrifice.



A sample of the damage to an electric pole from the South Fork Fire in Alto, highlighting the challenges faced by crews working to restore power. Over 80 poles replaced and 160 meters disconnected from the horrific incident.

## PAY-BY-PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Effective July 8, the number you call to obtain your balance and make a payment by phone with card or check is changing. Please make note of this new number.

**TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY PHONE  
OR OBTAIN YOUR BALANCE,  
PLEASE CALL**

**1-855-940-3957**



Youth Tour delegates traveled to Washington, D.C. June 17-23 to attend the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Conference. From left to right: Orlando Ruiz, Dominic Romero, Rylie Parson, and Daniel Chacon.