

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2025



INSIDE >>

The Growing Risk of Wildfires Page 12


NMRECA Annual Meeting Page 14

Freedom Starts at Home Page 18

High schoolers from around New Mexico are spending a week immersed in history and leadership lessons as part of Youth Tour. Recap story will be in August magazine. PHOTO BY TOM CONDIT

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

Cloudcroft Office

404 Burro Ave. • P.O. Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office

507 12th St. • P.O. Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office

1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages

800-548-4660

Fax: 575-682-3109

Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Board of Trustees

President

Charles Mulcock, SE District

Vice President

Denny Burnett, SE District

Secretary

Marty Mills, Central District

Treasurer

Scott Shafer, NW District

Kenny Blazer, SW District

Bill Bird, NE District

Cheri Hass, Central District

David Powers, NE District

Tim Rabon, SW District

Preston Stone, NW District

Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Otero County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



ELECTION OF TRUSTEES



DOOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS



BARBEQUE LUNCH



AUGUST 2, 2025



Visit Our Website
www.ocec-inc.com

REGISTRATION - 8:30 AM

BUSINESS MEETING - 10:00 AM



Cloudcroft High School Gym
Cloudcroft, NM

Sorry, we're
CLOSED

Otero County Electric Cooperative offices are closed Friday, July 4, for Independence Day.

WHO OWNS WHAT?

Understand electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Otero County Electric Cooperative is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also essential for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by the co-op.

OCEC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and padmounted transformers.

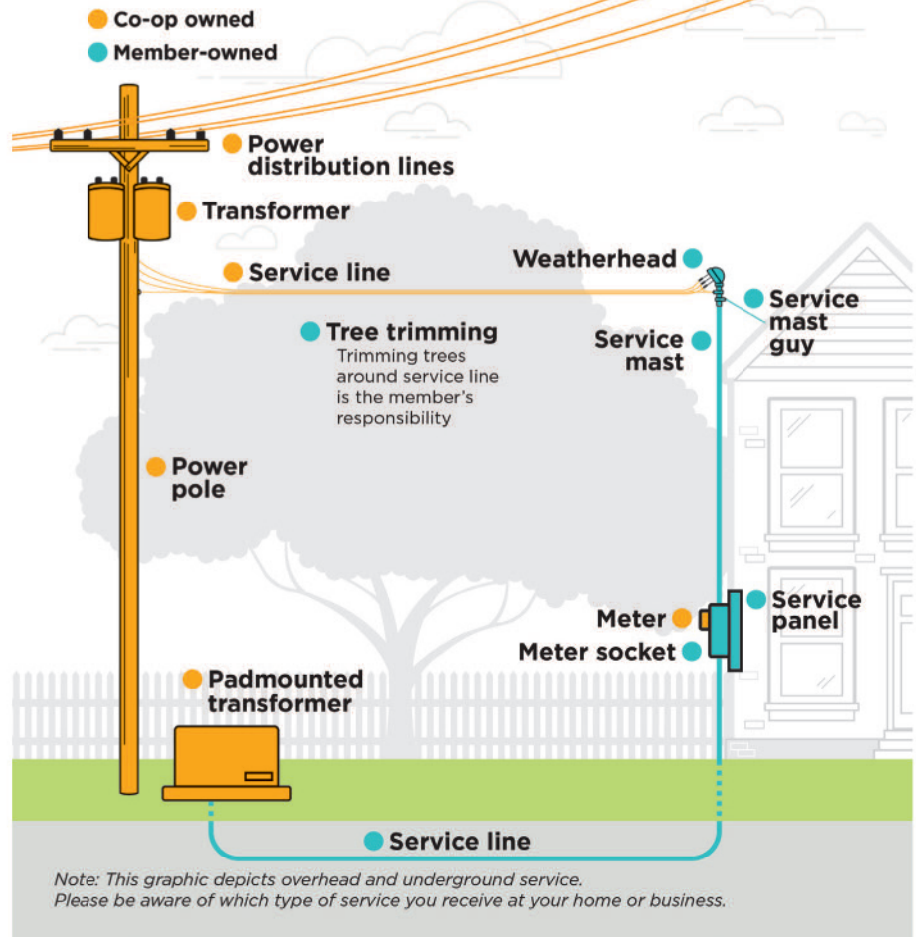
OCEC members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, which may include underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. Members are responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment the homeowner is responsible for is damaged, call a licensed electrician to conduct repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note any necessary repairs to the homeowner's

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



equipment must be conducted before OCEC crews can restore power to your home or business.

Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Tree Trimming

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live. However, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather.

OCEC regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service

reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, call us so we can see if we are able to trim those limbs and maintain lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility. Call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community. If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. ■