

**RADIANT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# HI-LITES

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### Contact Us

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[www.radiantec.coop](http://www.radiantec.coop)

### Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Are You Ready for Tornado Season?

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds.

A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible.

Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Radiant Electric encourages you to be informed when preparing for this tornado season this year.

### Facts About Tornadoes

- ▶ They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- ▶ They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- ▶ The average tornado moves southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- ▶ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- ▶ Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- ▶ Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.



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## Radiant Electric Products & Services

Radiant is dedicated to serving its members by offering various products and services such as those listed below.

### Electrical Services

- ▶ Single-phase residential/commercial service
- ▶ Three-phase residential/commercial service
- ▶ Outdoor lighting installation and repair
- ▶ Meter-base and service entrance surge protection
- ▶ Generator bypass and transfer switches

### Other Services

- ▶ Subscription to *Kansas Country Living* magazine
- ▶ Safety Programs
- ▶ Underground line locating
- ▶ Compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale
- ▶ Rebates on purchased electric heat pumps and water heaters

We look forward to serving you! For further information regarding these services, please call our customer service department at 620-378-2161, extension two.

## Welcome New Members

- Connie Stoldt—*Buffalo*
- Michael Willard—*Chanute*
- Elizabeth Bromley—*Coffeyville*
- David L. Smith—*Coffeyville*
- Seth Johnson—*Elk City*
- Dean Betts—*Fredonia*
- Jake Gillum—*Neodesha*
- Tracy Davis—*Park City*
- Marla Degraffenreid—*Sedgwick*
- Jesus Barraza—*Thayer*
- Marjorie Hinderliter—*Wichita*

# Are You Ready for Tornado Season?

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- ▶ Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- ▶ Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.
- ▶ Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can occur at any time.

## Take Protective Measures Before a Tornado

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.

- ▶ Look for approaching storms.
- ▶ Look for the following danger signs including: dark, often greenish sky, large hail, a large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating), loud roar, similar to a freight train.

If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

## What to do During a Tornado

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately!

## Preparing a Safe Room

Extreme windstorms in many parts of the country pose a serious threat to buildings and their occupants.

Your residence may be built “to code,” but that does not mean it can withstand winds from extreme events such as tornadoes.

The purpose of a safe room or a wind shelter is to provide a space where you and your family can seek refuge that provides a high level of protection. You can build a safe room in one of several places in your home.

**Know the Terms**—Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a tornado hazard

### Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

### Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

- ▶ Your basement.
- ▶ Atop a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor.
- ▶ An interior room on the first floor.

Safe rooms built below ground level provide the greatest protection, but a safe room built in a first-floor interior room also can provide the necessary protection. Below-ground safe rooms must be designed to avoid accumulating water during the heavy rains that often accompany severe windstorms.

- ▶ To protect its occupants, a safe room must be built to withstand high winds and flying debris, even if the rest of the residence is severely damaged or destroyed. Consider the following when building a safe room:
  - ▶ The safe room must be adequately anchored to resist overturning and uplift.
  - ▶ The walls, ceiling, and door of the shelter must withstand wind pressure and resist penetration by wind-borne objects and falling debris.
  - ▶ The connections between all parts of the safe room must be strong enough to resist the wind.
  - ▶ Sections of either interior or exterior residence walls that are used as walls of the safe room, must be separated from the structure of the residence so that damage to the residence will not cause damage to the safe room.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# Powers & Puckett Bounce Back with New Business

**NICK POWERS** and **CARL PUCKETT** spent many years working at the Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) plant in Fredonia.

When ADM announced they would be closing down the Fredonia plant, Powers, Puckett and many other ADM employees were suddenly out of jobs.

Some employees found other jobs, while others returned and some went to school to get a college degree.

Powers and Puckett had learned that John Fail owner of Rite-Way Concrete Products, established in 1982, was ready to sell his business.

Products Fail made from cement included cattle feeders and freeze-proof waters for cattle. Both of these products are great sellers for the winter months.

Powers and Puckett purchased the business in 2003, and the two knew

they would need a product that they would keep them busy during the spring and summer months. The two decided storm shelters would be a product that is a necessity in the Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri area.

The team started the process of researching tornado shelters and traveled to neighboring states to review examples. They shared one common goal in the choosing their storm shelter designs, the shelter they would choose would have to meet or exceed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) performance criteria for tornado shelters

“Adding the tornado shelters was a great investment, now we can’t even keep a shelter on our site to show as a demo,” Puckett said.

The no-maintenance storm shelters come in two sizes—small and large. The smaller shelter is six foot by eight foot, has 40 square feet of flat floor space and will seat eight.

The large shelter is five and a half feet by 12-feet, and has 44 square feet of flat floor space. This unit will seat 12 people.

Both are pre-



This storm shelter meets and exceeds FEMA requirements.

cast concrete shelters that are created in two pieces. The pieces are sealed with a metal sealant and 12-inch by six-inch, quarter-inch thick steel plates. The shelters are reinforced with ½ inch rebar on 12-inch centers top and bottom wrapped in concrete wire and has fiber added to the concrete.

The thinnest wall is four inches and the thickest is six inches. Each shelter is built with two air vents.

The 10-gauge steel door is constructed so no one can get locked inside, and it is equipped with a gas spring cylinder.

The larger unit also has a Lexan safety glass window in the door. Internal and external hand rails are available for easy access.

The permanent steel stairs leading down into the shelter are covered with a non-skid tape for safety from falling.

There is no electricity in the shelters, but customers may install tap lights. Seating usually is in the



Storm shelters have non skid steel stairs and can have hand rails installed.

form of a lawn chair.

The eight-ton tornado shelter is built in rural Fredonia and delivered to the site. Powers and Puckett can install the shelter, but there are customers who choose to install it themselves. Prices for the small shelter are \$2,550 and the larger is \$3,500. All shelters come with a one year guarantee.

RiteWay Concrete Products is located at 11896 Jade Road in Fredonia and can be reached at 620-870-9557 or 620-870-1548. You can also e-mail at [tack1330@embarqmail.com](mailto:tack1330@embarqmail.com).



The steel door is installed with a gas spring cylinder.

## Local Event Calendar

### CANEY

**JUNE 4-6—Caney Valley Antique Power Association Pioneer Days:** Located 3 ½ miles north of Caney on Hwy-75. For more information visit [www.cvapa.com](http://www.cvapa.com).

### CHANUTE

**JUNE 11-12—American Cancer Society Relay for Life.**

**JULY 4—Fireworks at Santa Fe Park.**

### COFFEYVILLE

**JUNE 2—Downtown Coffeyville Fun Fest**

**JUNE 19—Downtown Coffeyville Movie Night:** Begins at 5 p.m.

**JUNE 25—American Cancer Society Relay for Life.**

**JUNE 25-27—4-Corners Trike-In Coffeyville Fairgrounds.**

**JULY 4—4th of July Celebration:** Walter Johnson Park

### ELK CITY

**JUNE 12—Trades Day at Community Building:** PRIDE will sponsor swap meet. Also tables and booths will be set. Opens at 8 a.m.

### FREDONIA

**JUNE 11-12—Fredonia Flag Festival and Ole Glory BBQ Challenge:** Activities include pork shoulder contest, waves of chocolate dessert challenge and sale, Mr. Legg's contest, Nigh golf tournament, crafts and vendors.

**JULY 4—4th of July Fireworks at Pryor Stadium.**

### INDEPENDENCE

**EVERY SATURDAY—Independence Downtown Farmers Market:** Consists of home grown produce and handmade crafts. Located on Myrtle Street the market will open at 8 a.m. with the ringing of the bell and will run until 11 a.m.

**JUNE 12—Prairie Days:** Located at the Little House on the Prairie. Open from 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

**JUNE 21—Candidate Forum:** 7 p.m. at the Independence Historical Museum. Kansas US Senate Race candidates Todd Tiaht and Jerry Moran present in open forum.

**JUNE 25—Oh, Mercy BBQ Challenge:** Grillin' and Goodwillin in Riverside Park. Additional information at [www.mercykansas.com](http://www.mercykansas.com).

**JULY 4—Fireworks at Riverside Park.**

## Cooperative Connections

Radiant Electric works with various local, state, and federal entities to ensure the best possible service for our cooperative members. If you would like further information about these organizations, please take a moment to visit them online.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—**FEMA supports citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Visit them online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

**Home Energy Savers—**Discover energy saving tips for your home and save money! Visit them online at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

**Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC)—**The statewide association for rural electric cooperatives serves 32 Kansas rural electric cooperatives by directing legislative efforts, employee safety programs, offering printing, legal, rate and regulatory services and assisting with other electric cooperative services. Visit them online at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org).

**Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo)—**Radiant Electric worked with 21 other electric cooperatives in central and eastern Kansas to form KEPCo for the purpose of providing reliable long term power. Together, KEPCo ensures a consistent long term source of electricity at reasonable rates. Visit them online at [www.kepcoco.org](http://www.kepcoco.org).

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)—**NRECA is the national association of over 1,000 rural electric cooperatives dedicated to representing the interests of electric cooperatives. Visit them online at [www.nreca.org](http://www.nreca.org)



**National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)—**A privately owned organization providing state-of-the-art financial assistance to its members including approximately 900 electric utility systems. Visit them online at [www.nrucfc.org](http://www.nrucfc.org).

**Rural Development Electric Program—**The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides leadership and capital to upgrade, expand, maintain, and replace America's vast rural electric infrastructure. Visit them online at [www.usda.gov/rus/electric](http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric).

**Touchstone® Energy—**More than 600 Touchstone® Energy cooperatives in 44 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 17 million customers every day. Visit them online at [www.touchstoneenergy.cooperative.com](http://www.touchstoneenergy.cooperative.com).

**Energy Star—**A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to help us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Visit them online at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).