

KCEC Monthly Newsletter



August 2025 Edition

Message from the CEO

KCEC Wildfire Mitigation Update: August 1, 2025

Taos, NM – Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is closely monitoring all weather patterns and wildfire conditions across its service territory as part of its ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts. With the increasing threat of wildfires due to persistent drought and dry weather in northern New Mexico, KCEC is taking proactive steps to protect its infrastructure, members, and the communities it serves. The cooperative is committed to prioritizing safety in every decision, including system inspections, vegetation management, non-re-close operations and emergency preparedness. KCEC asks for members' continued patience and understanding as response times or service interruptions may occur during periods of heightened fire risk. Ensuring the safety of our communities remains KCEC's highest priority as we work together to stay resilient through this wildfire season.

As of late July 2025, wildfire activity in Carson National Forest remains minimal, with no recent large fires reported. The only notable incident was the Ojitos Fire detected on June 24, 2025, in Cibola County north of Taos between San Cristobal and Lama. It was first observed at roughly 4:11 p.m., involved 2 acres officially burned, and has not had updates beyond three days, suggesting the incident is inactive. Fire resources, including personnel from Carson National Forest and local volunteer fire departments, responded quickly with engines, brush trucks, and water tenders to contain the blaze in its early stages. The Ojitos fire was caused by lightning.

These fires are occurring amid extreme to exceptional drought across much of northern and western New Mexico, and monsoonal moisture has been uneven, helping suppress some fire behavior in the Gila region but also triggering dangerous flash flooding in burn-scarred areas like Ruidoso earlier in July.

KCEC uses AiDash, an advanced satellite-based AI platform, to transform its vegetation management around power lines and substations. By combining high-resolution satellite images with AI-driven analytics, AiDash offers real-time, actionable insights into vegetation health and growth patterns, allowing KCEC to implement predictive trim cycles and proactively address high-risk areas. This shift from reactive to data-driven maintenance improves grid reliability, enhances resource allocation, and greatly reduces wildfire risk by detecting potential threats early. Additionally, AiDash aids long-term planning through vegetation regrowth forecasts and regulatory compliance monitoring, reaffirming KCEC's dedication to safety, environmental responsibility, and innovation.

KCEC continues to prioritize the safety of our members and communities by placing forest areas of our service territory on non-re-close operation during high fire risk periods. For more information and the full release, please visit kitcarson.com.



Luis A. Reyes Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

Sign up to receive text messages regarding outages and updates at www.kitcarson.com

KCEC is 100% Daytime Solar

"Owned By Those WE SERVE"

\$2.71/gal for Residential
\$2.65/gal for Bottle Dock
*Prices subject to change

August Propane Pricing



When you enroll, you can view your bill via email **QUICK CONVENIENT and EASY!** All you need is an **EMAIL ADDRESS!** Call **KCEC Offices to Get Started.**

Follow us on Social Media for Power Outage Updates and Information

KCEC wants to encourage members to follow us on social media and media outlets for current updates on service disruptions, events and information regarding your cooperative.



www.kitcarson.com



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Kit Carson Propane

We are thrilled to connect with our valued customers and share important updates, helpful tips, and insights into the world of propane. As your trusted local energy provider, we are committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable propane services to homes and businesses across our community. Thank you for choosing us as your energy partner – we look forward to serving you!

Staying safe with propane is important. When propane is used properly, it is one of the safest fuels. Your safety is our top priority. Please review these crucial propane safety tips:

Cylinder Handling: Always transport propane cylinders upright and secured in your vehicle. Never leave cylinders in a hot car.

- **Leak Detection:** If you suspect a propane leak, immediately turn off the gas supply, evacuate the area, and call your propane provider or the fire department from a safe distance. Remember the "rotten egg" smell of propane.
- **Appliance Clearances:** Ensure proper clearance around all propane-powered appliances. Keep flammable materials away from pilot lights and burners.
- **Professional Installation:** Always have propane appliances installed and serviced by qualified professionals. Never attempt to modify or repair propane equipment yourself.
- **Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Install and regularly test carbon monoxide detectors in your home, especially near propane appliances. Carbon monoxide is odorless and invisible.

Your safety is our priority at Kit Carson Propane. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office. Please note that prices for our propane or services are subject to change at any time. Such changes may occur without prior notice. Thank you for your understanding.

Community Education - Fuel Adjustment Explanation

FPPCA stands for Fuel and Power Purchase Adjustment (Fuel Adjustment). The Fuel Adjustment is a line item on your monthly electric bill. It serves as a mechanism that allows utilities to adjust the price of electricity to reflect fluctuations in the cost of fuel and other expenses related to power generation and delivery, including transmission costs. Here are some examples of fluctuations in the Fuel Adjustment:

- Changes in transmission costs
- Purchasing higher-cost power from the grid when KCEC's solar arrays are not generating electricity due to factors like cloud cover, extreme weather, or maintenance
- Selling excess solar generation when the arrays are overproducing, which provides a credit toward your electric bill

KCEC does not profit from the Fuel Adjustment cost. This adjustment is designed to recover or refund the cost of power for that month, ensuring that the cooperative remains whole. KCEC does not retain any of the fuel adjustment costs collected.



Kit Carson Internet

On July 29, 2025, Kit Carson Internet unintentionally sent an email regarding copyright and illegal activity to its customer base. The message, which appeared to reference potential copyright infringement or illegal activity, was distributed in error during an internal system test and caused confusion among recipients.

KCI has experienced a rise in illegal activities, such as copyright infringement and unauthorized downloading on its network. This is why KCI is making internal modifications to its form. KCI does not tolerate or permit this type of behavior from its customers.

The email was never meant for public distribution and was part of an internal quality assurance process. **KCI wants to reassure customers that no action is required on their part. Importantly, no customer data was compromised, and the incident was not related to a cybersecurity or data breach.**

KCI values the trust and continued support of its community and appreciates customers' understanding regarding this matter. Kit Carson Electric and Kit Carson Internet reaffirm that it operates with the highest safety, privacy, and cybersecurity standards in place. All systems are regularly audited, monitored, and maintained using industry-leading best practices and advanced security protocols.

At KCI, we hold ourselves to high standards of transparency and reliability. We are taking this situation very seriously and are committed to learning from it to serve our customers better. Customers with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact KCI's support team at (575)-758-4838.

KCEC Board of Trustees

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Next Board of Trustee Monthly Board Meeting will be held August 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.