



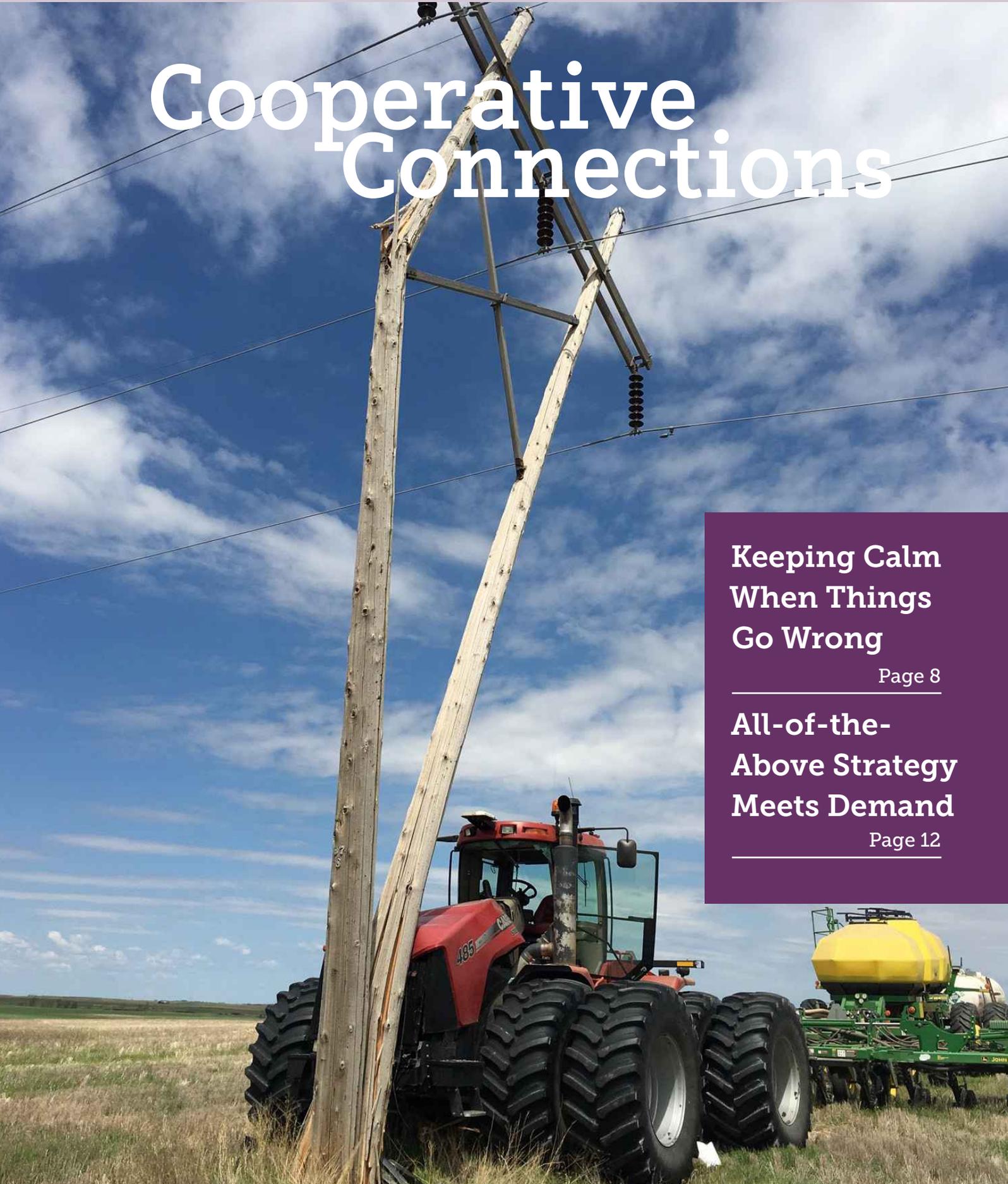
Cooperative Connections

**Keeping Calm
When Things
Go Wrong**

Page 8

**All-of-the-
Above Strategy
Meets Demand**

Page 12



LEA Annual Meeting to Be Held

Lacreek Electric's 71st annual meeting of members is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the old American Legion Auditorium in Martin, S.D.

The evening will begin with a meal served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the New American Legion dining room. After members are finished eating, they will need to go to the old American Legion Auditorium for the meeting.

The business meeting will be at 7 p.m. The capital credit checks will be mailed out to the members the first part of April and should be received before the April 25 annual meeting. No checks will be at the meeting.

Directors will be elected from the following zones: Zone 1; Troy Kuxhaus, Zone 3; Connie Whirlwind Horse, Zone 4; Neal Livermont, Zone 5; and Wade Risse, Zone 8.

All positions are for three-year terms.

Candidates must live in the zone they plan to represent.

The petitions must be signed by at least 15 members living in the zone the candidate is running in.

Petitions can be picked up starting Feb. 25 and must be filed with the board secretary no later than March 25 2019.

Lacreek's board of directors currently consists of 13 members representing nine zones.

If you choose to run for a board of director at a non-profit organization such as Lacreek Electric, you have inherently accepted fundamental responsibilities in addition to a commitment of time and accountability to the cooperative on behalf of the members it serves. Keep in mind, the board has ultimate legal responsibility for the cooperative.

A director must act in good faith, in the best interest of Lacreek Electric. A director possesses a fiduciary duty to Lacreek Electric and its members. A director has accountability for the assets and resources of the cooperative. They should never use their position on the board to advance their own private interests. A director should concentrate on the goals and vision of Lacreek

Article IV - Director Bylaws

SECTION 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of thirteen (13) directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. Zones and General Qualifications of Directors. For the purpose of election and qualification of directors, the service area of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., shall be divided into nine (9) Zones each to have the number of directors indicated:

- **Zone 1** shall consist of territory within the corporate limits of the City of Martin and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 2** shall consist of territory designated as East Bennett and shall consist of all that portion of Bennett County east of the Range Line between Range 37 and 38 west of the Sixth Principal Meridian with such line extended north and south to the north and south boundaries of Bennett County, respectively, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 3** shall consist of territory designated as West Bennett, west of the Range Line between Range 37 and 38 west of the Sixth Principal Meridian with such line extended north and south to the north and south boundaries of Bennett County, respectively, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 4** shall consist of territory designated as East Oglala Lakota County and shall include all of that portion of Oglala Lakota County east of the Range Line between Range 42 and 43, and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 5** shall consist of all that portion of Jackson County (including the former Washabaugh County) served by the cooperative and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 6** shall consist of all of the Lacreek area in Todd and Mellette Counties combined, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 7** shall consist of all the Lacreek area in Cherry County, Nebraska, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 8** shall be considered as a zone at-large consisting of all of the Lacreek Association territory and be entitled to one director elected from any place in the entire area including any of the zones heretofore defined.
- **Zone 9** shall consist of territory designated as West Oglala Lakota County and shall include all of that portion of Oglala Lakota County, west of the Range Line between Range 42 and 43, and shall be entitled to two directors.

In the event the territory of the Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., should be enlarged in the future, the enlarged portion shall become a part of the Zone numbered from one to nine, excluding eight as above described with the exterior boundary of which it has the greatest distance of its own exterior boundary contiguous.

SECTION 3. Tenure of Office.

- (a) Director shall be elected to serve a three-year term, with director terms staggered in such a manner that no more than five (5) directors are up for election in any one year
- (b) All directors shall serve until the close of the annual meeting in the year in which their successors have been elected and qualified. If an election of directors is or cannot be held, a special meeting shall be held for the purpose within a reasonable time thereafter. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next meeting at which an election shall be conducted.
- (c) In the event that the election results in a tie between two candidates, the winner shall be decided by the flip of a coin. In the event that there is a tie between three candidates, three coins shall be flipped, one by each of the candidates or their representatives, until an odd man shall have been established, and said odd man shall be declared the winner. In the event that more than three candidates are tied, the winner shall be determined by drawing lots in the form of slips of paper to be drawn from a hat, one of which shall be marked to designate a winner.

SECTION 4. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position in the Association who is not a member and bona fide resident of the area served or to be served by the Association, and in the case of a director, a resident of the zone from which elected. No person who is a close relative of an existing director, as the term "close relative" is defined in Section 9, may be elected to serve on the board of directors during the term of such close relative then serving. No person is eligible to become or remain a director who has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal or State law within the 24 months before their election as a director or during their term(s) as a director. No person is eligible to become a director who is or has been an employee of the Association within the prior three years.

SECTION 5. Nominations. Directors of the Cooperative shall be nominated by petition, signed by at least fifteen (15) members of the Cooperative, residing in the zone from which the candidate is to be elected, and stating the candidate's name, post office address, and zone which said candidate is to represent. Such petition shall be filed with the Secretary, not more than sixty (60) days no less than thirty (30) days before the day of the annual meeting. Not less than twenty (20) days before the annual meeting, the Secretary shall post at the front door of the principal office of the Cooperative, a list containing the name, post office address and zone of each person so nominated. A true copy of such list shall be posted by the Secretary prior to the commencement of the annual meeting at the site thereof. The Secretary shall mail with the Notice of Meeting, or separately, but at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names, post office addresses, and zone of the candidates.

In the election of directors, each member shall be entitled to cast the number of votes but no cumulatively which correspond to the total number of directors to be elected, but no member may vote for more nominees than the number of director that are to be elected from or with respect to any particular Zone. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Zones shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such Zone or Zones. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in the Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election.

Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

Tom Schlack – President
 Jerry Sharp – Vice President
 Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary
 Clarence Allen – Treasurer
 Melvin Cummings – Brent Ireland –
 Neal Livermont – Dean O’Neill –
 Wade Risse – Marion Schultz –
 Connie Whirlwind Horse –
 Donovan Young Man

Management Staff

Josh Fanning – General Manager
 Sherry Bakley – Work Order and Billing
 Manager
 Anna Haynes – Finance and
 Benefits Manager
 Mike Pisha – Operations Manager
 Stacey Robinson – Member Service
 Representative Manager and Editor

Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II
 Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
 Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist
 Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist
 Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist
 Lisa Jensen –
 Member Service Representative
 Ashley Turgeon –
 Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
 Journeyman Linemen:
 Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit
 Aaron Risse – Lonny Lesmeister
 Apprentice Linemen:
 Aarin Ainsworth – Jordon Bakley –
 Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –
 Garrett Metzinger – Brad Hahn –
 Trace Scott
 Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man
 Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957



Check your mail!

The capital credit checks will be mailed out to the members the first part of April and should be received before the April 25 annual meeting.

No checks will be at the meeting.

TEENS: Travel to N.D.

This summer, Lacreek Electric will sponsor two area students for the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion. This four-day event will be headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

WHO is eligible? All 14- to 16-year-old students whose parents or guardians are members of Lacreek Electric.

WHAT does it cost? The trip is funded by Lacreek Electric. Funding for the trip provides for each participant’s transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sight-seeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal shopping money.

WHEN is it held? The excursion will be held July 22-25, 2019. Participants will be picked up in the morning on July 22 and arrive back home late afternoon on July 25. Commercial buses will be used for transportation. 472000101

HOW do I qualify? Contact Lacreek Electric or fill out the application form online at www.lacreek.com and return it to Lacreek’s office for a random drawing.

Application forms must be filled out and in the Lacreek Electric office by April 5, 2019.



Read Your Heat Meter

Please read your heat meter to receive your heat credit during the heat season which is October through April.

If you would like to have an office-read heat meter, please contact our office at 605-685-6581.

A \$25 charge is required to install this type of meter.



Protect Your Family

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical cords and temporary wiring account for more than 25 percent of the estimated 81,000 electrical system fires that occur each year. These fires can be prevented by following these essential home electrical safety tips.

Extension cord safety

- Don't use extension cords as a substitute for repairing building wiring.
- Inspect extension cords for broken connectors, damaged insulation and missing hardware before each use.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, over beams, around corners or through doorways.
- Only use extension cords approved for the environment and loads expected.
- Equip extension cords with ground fault interruption (GFI) devices.
- Don't use coiled extension cords.
- Discard damaged extension cords; don't try to repair them.
- Use only surge protected power strips. Inspect the power strips regularly for damage or signs of overloading.

Temporary wiring

- Don't substitute temporary and flexible wiring for repairing building wiring.
- Use temporary wiring only when needed for maintenance, repair or demolition activities.
- Limit temporary wiring for holiday or ornamental lighting to no more than 90 days.
- In outdoor settings, use only outdoor approved temporary wiring and extension cords.
- Don't route temporary wiring across floors, around doors or through walls.
- Locate temporary wiring at least 7 feet above any walking or working surface.
- Protect temporary wiring from sharp edges, heat and sunlight to avoid breakdown of the insulation.

Equipment power cords

- Inspect equipment cords for damage before each use.
- Don't operate equipment cords without a ground connection unless they are double insulated.
- Don't splice equipment cords to repair damage or to extend the original length.

Safeguards to install

- Inspect all electrical appliances to ensure they're properly grounded.
- Write the purpose of each circuit breaker, fuse or switch on the panel board.
- Label all disconnecting switches and circuit breakers.

Source: nationwide.com



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811
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KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not use cords with bare spots."

RosaLee Masson, 8 years old

RosaLee is the grand-daughter of Steve and Ruby Niklason, Bryant, S.D. They are members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Appetizers and Beverages

Hot Chicken Dip

3 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
 1 (4 oz.) can sliced jalapeños, chopped
 2 (10 oz.) cans chicken breast, drain 1 can
 1 can cream of chicken soup

Mix together and heat in microwave or crock pot. Serve warm with any snack crackers or scoop chips.

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre, SD

Crab Roll-Ups

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
 1/2 to 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
 1 pkg. frozen crab meat, thawed
 1 pkg. large flour tortilla shells

Melt cream cheese in microwave until soft enough to stir; mix in ranch dressing mix. Cut up crab meat into small pieces; mix with cream cheese. Spread over tortilla shells and roll up. Refrigerate 1 hour. Cut into 1-inch slices. Store in refrigerator.

Patricia Cerny, Gregory, SD

Rise and Shine Smoothies

1 cup fresh strawberries
 1 banana
 1 ripe mango
 1/4 cup orange juice
 1/2 cup vanilla yogurt
 2 T. honey
 1 cup ice cubes

Wash and hull strawberries. Peel banana and cut into chunks. Pit, peel and slice mango. In a blender, combine all ingredients, blending until smooth. Pour into glasses. Makes 2 servings.

Eileen Holzerland, Waubay, SD

Cocktail Weiners

1 cup brown sugar
 1 cup ketchup
 1/3 to 1/2 cup grape jelly
 2 pkgs. cocktail smokies

Combine all ingredients; simmer on low heat.

Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen, SD

Orange Glazed Turkey Meatballs

1 egg
 1/4 cup milk
 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Poultry Seasoning
 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Ground
 1 lb. ground turkey
 1 T. olive oil
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 1 cup orange marmalade
 1 T. white wine vinegar
 1 pinch McCormick® Red Pepper, Ground

Beat egg and milk in large bowl. Stir in bread crumbs, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper. Add ground turkey; mix well. Cover. Refrigerate 1 hour. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Place meatballs in single layer in skillet. Cook until well browned on all sides. Remove meatballs from skillet. Set aside. Mix orange marmalade, broth, vinegar and red pepper in skillet on medium heat. Bring to boil, stirring to release browned bits in bottom of skillet. Return meatballs to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 10 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through and sauce has reduced to glaze consistency. Makes 15 (2 meatball) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 123, Total Fat 3g, Protein 7g, Cholesterol 37mg, Sodium 245mg, Carbohydrates 17g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cappuccino Mix

1 cup coffee creamer
 1 cup chocolate drink mix
 2/3 cup coffee crystals
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

Combine all ingredients. Add 3 tsp. mix to 1 cup hot water.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy or dessert recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Q&A

Breaking Down Seven Energy-Saving Claims



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: When it comes to saving energy, it can be confusing to figure out what works and what doesn't. I know you usually just answer one question, but can you let me know what you think about a few things I've heard over the years? – Keeley

Dear Keeley: Sure. Fire away!

Q: Is it true that turning lights off and on uses more energy than just leaving them on?

A: Not true. Turning off lights definitely reduces energy use. Turn off LED and incandescent bulbs every time you leave the room. The situation is a little different with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). Turning them off does save energy but can shorten the life of the bulb. The rule of thumb for CFLs is to turn them off any time they won't be used for 15 minutes or more.

Q: Would replacing my old windows with new, more efficient ones really cut my energy use in half?

A: No. While replacing inefficient windows with new, energy efficient windows can cut the heat loss through windows in half (or more), windows typically account for only about 25 percent to 30 percent of your space heating costs. The amount of energy you use for heating and cooling is likely one-third to one-half of your total energy use, so replacing your old windows might only reduce your total energy costs by about 10 percent. When you consider the high cost of new windows, you may not recoup your investment for 15 or 20 years, or even longer.

Q: Burning wood in my fireplace should save on my heating costs, right?

A: Possibly, but certain conditions need to be met. The wood should be dry and burned efficiently in a properly installed, properly placed, high-efficiency wood stove or fireplace insert. Otherwise, it's likely you'll lose as much heat through your chimney as you're distributing throughout the house.

Q: My kids claim using the dishwasher is just as efficient as washing dishes by hand. Are they right?

A: Yes – in fact, it's usually more efficient! Properly used dishwashers actually use less water while doing a better job and as a bonus, they will save you more than 200 hours a year. For maximum energy savings, make sure your water heater is set to about 120 degrees and use the most efficient wash/dry settings.

Q: I've heard it's better to heat individual rooms with an electric space heater and keep the doors closed to trap the heat. Is this true?

A: It's possible to save money with an electric space heater if you use it only a few hours a day and reduce your home's thermostat setting by a couple degrees. Space heaters can cause fires, so they need to be used wisely and should never be left unattended. Which brings us to your next question...

Q: Should I close the vents in rooms that aren't being used?

A: Most experts advise against this because closing supply registers forces your furnace or A/C unit to work harder. They advise keeping all your vents and doors open. If your system supplies too much heat to some rooms and too little to other rooms, you should talk to a heating and air conditioning professional about modifying your ductwork.

Q: Does the age of my home determine how energy efficient it is?

A: Newer homes tend to be more efficient because energy codes have improved, but every home can have hidden energy issues, no matter its age. If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your home, it's best to schedule an energy audit with a professional.



This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on mower options, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Noem Seeks Nominations for Governor's Ag Ambassador Award

Governor Kristi Noem is seeking nominations for the 2019 South Dakota Governor's Ag Ambassador Award.

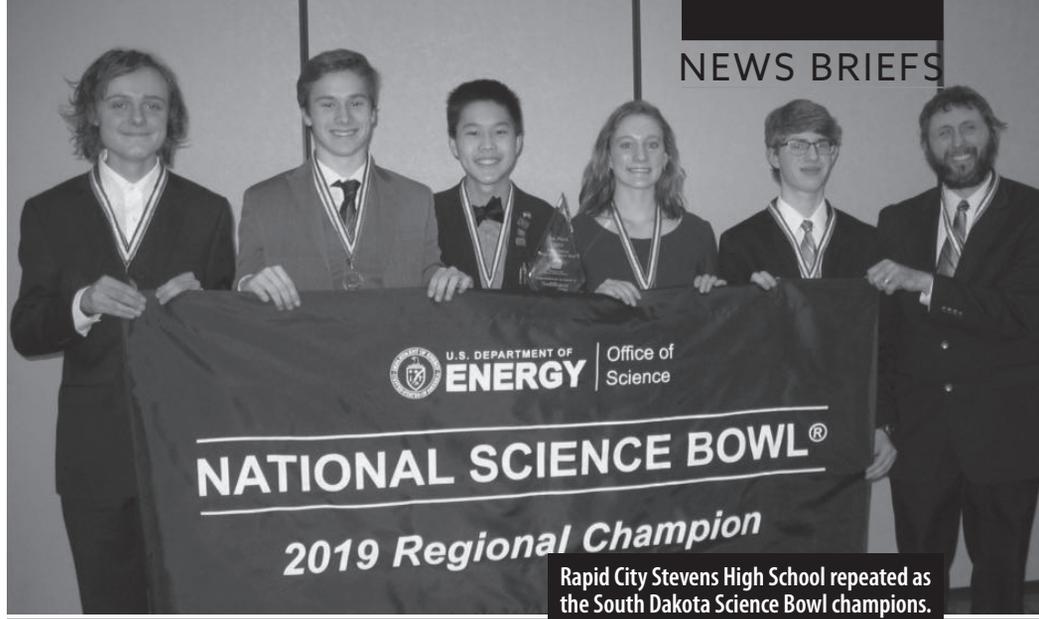
Nominees should be individuals or organizations who have continually worked to promote agriculture in South Dakota while demonstrating servant leadership, hard work, honesty, humility, and respect for others.

Key achievements of the Ag Ambassador:

- Provides visionary leadership to South Dakota's agricultural industry
- Champions growth and prosperity of the state's number one industry
- Advocates for agriculture and the responsible stewardship of livestock and land
- Highlights the significance of South Dakota agriculture to the global food system
- Influences decision makers to develop and implement sound agricultural policies

Nominations are due to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture by May 17, 2019. The form can be found at sdda.sd.gov under the "Happening Now" section by clicking "2019 Governor's Ag Ambassador Nominations."

The award will be presented during the annual Governor's Agricultural Summit in Sioux Falls on July 10 and 11.



Rapid City Stevens High School Repeats

The Rapid City Stevens High School science bowl team captured first-place honors in the South Dakota Science Bowl held in February in Huron.

The fast-paced quiz format of the competition challenges the students' knowledge of biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

Students representing 12 schools from throughout South Dakota competed, vying for a free trip to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., April 25-29. The regional and national events encourage student involvement in math and science, inspire the next generation to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math fields and reward superior academic achievement.

In addition to Rapid City Stevens, teams from Centerville, Eagle Butte, Hitchcock-Tulare, Huron, Northwestern, Parker, Rapid City Central, Redfield, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, West Central and Winner were set to compete in the event.

Past S.D. Science Bowl Champs

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2018: Rapid City Stevens High School | 2006: Rapid City Central High School |
| 2017: Rapid City Stevens High School | 2005: Rapid City Central High School |
| 2016: Rapid City Stevens High School | 2004: Rapid City Stevens High School |
| 2015: Rapid City Stevens High School | 2003: Rapid City Stevens High School |
| 2014: Rapid City Central High School | 2002: Vermillion High School |
| 2013: Rapid City Central High School | 2001: Huron High School |
| 2012: Aberdeen Central High School | 2000: Huron High School |
| 2011: Vermillion High School | 1999: Huron High School |
| 2010: Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association | 1998: Vermillion High School |
| 2009: Aberdeen Central High School | 1997: Alcester-Hudson High School |
| 2008: Aberdeen Central High School | 1996: Philip High School |
| 2007: Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association | 1995: Aberdeen Central High School |
| | 1994: Brookings High School |

Source: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/ScienceBowl/Pages/south-dakota-winners.aspx> and <https://science.energy.gov/wdts/nsb/about/historical-information/past-national-science-bowl-winners/past-hs-winners/other-participants-1994/>



Planting season brings reminders for the importance to keep equipment away from power lines.

KEEPING CALM

Know the Steps if an Accident Occurs

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

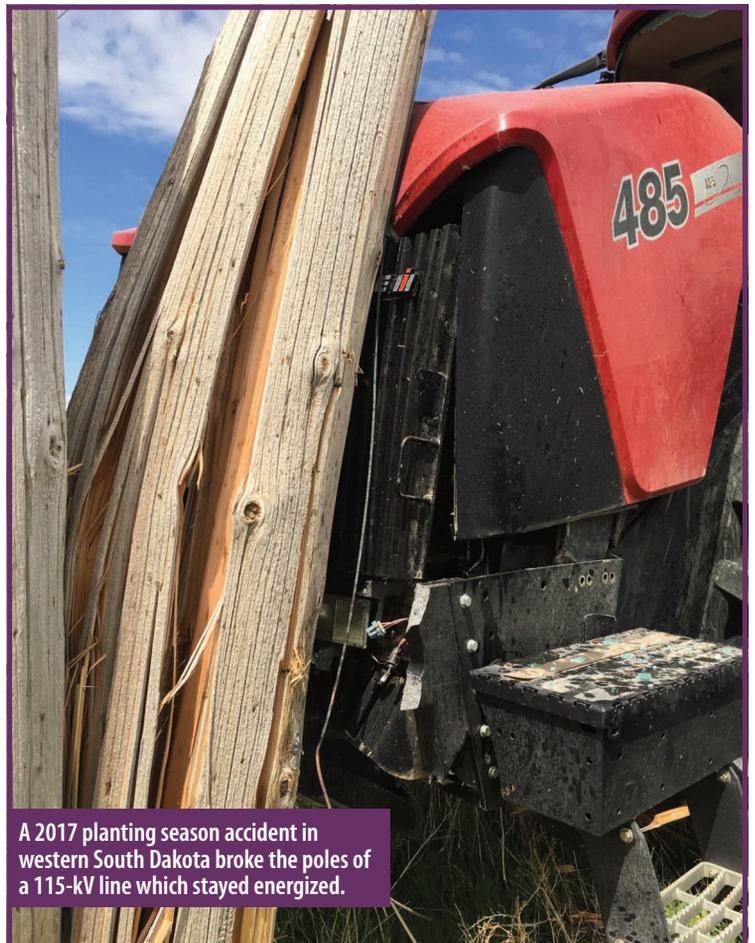
In the spring of 2017, an operations manager of a cooperative in western South Dakota cooperative got a call from a member.

There had been an accident and the member's tractor was now resting against two broken poles which were supporting an energized 115-kilovolt line.

Even though the power line did not ultimately belong to the cooperative, it served to illustrate an on-going concern: accidents between agriculture equipment and power lines appeared to be on the rise.

Cooperatives have engaged in educational efforts to inform people what to do to first avoid the accident and secondly what steps to take if an accident occurs.

The first thing to keep in mind is to avoid the accident. Know the height of your equipment, the width of your equipment and the location of various electric facilities that should be avoided. Then, make sure that all involved are taking the steps to avoid having equipment come in contact with electric utilities.



A 2017 planting season accident in western South Dakota broke the poles of a 115-kV line which stayed energized.

But if an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line:

- Stay inside the cab and call 911.
- Wait for electric crews to clear the area and keep others away from the accident scene.

If the equipment catches fire and one must exit the cab, there's a process to follow, too.

"Tuck your arms up and give yourself a bear hug and hop clear. Don't touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then hop away," said Courtney Deinert, communications director at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

One of Central Electric's members was involved in an incident involving a grain cart and a power line on a farm near Mitchell. The auger of the grain cart became entangled in the lines.

The member immediately called the cooperative and stayed inside the cab of the tractor. Thankfully, a fire did not start so the member did not have to exit and hop away.

Accidents involving underground cabinets – commonly called the green boxes – have also been occurring as equipment gets wider. And, the sheer volume of snow accumulation that occurred in the winter

of 2018-2019 resulted in several cabinets being hit or buried during snow removal operations.

The equipment housed in the cabinets is energized and can pose the same

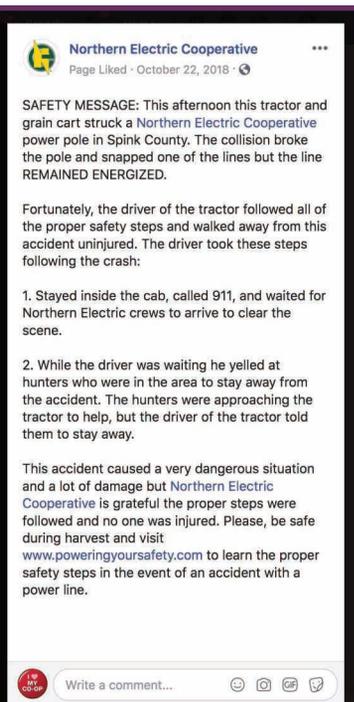
issues that occur when equipment contacts overhead lines.

In either case, the best option is to prevent the accident from occurring by being aware of the location of the equipment. But, if an accident does occur, call your local electric cooperative, stay inside the vehicle's cab and keep others away from the scene until co-op crews arrive.

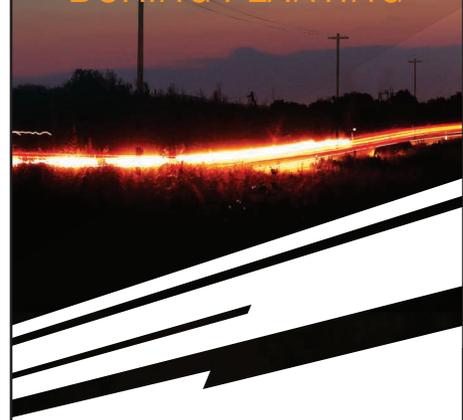
If an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.



A Northern Electric Facebook post from October discussed an accident in Spink County where the operator took the right steps after being involved in an accident with an overhead line.



PRE-PLANNING CAN SAVE LIVES DURING PLANTING



When it's go-time, it's go-time. We understand that every second counts during planting season, but taking a moment to be mindful of safety during this anxious time could save you a lot of heartache in the long run. Remember to check your equipment, be aware of power lines, keep your cellphone on you at all times, dress appropriately and stay rested this spring.

Together we are

RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

Jan. 22, 2019, Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, Jan. 22, 2019, beginning at 1 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Schlack and the following directors were present: Clarence Allen, Troy Kuxhaus, Wade Risse, Jerry Sharp, Donovan Young Man, Dean O'Neill, Melvin Cummings, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Brent Ireland and Marion Schultz. Absent was Neal Livermont. Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Finance and Benefits Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services Representative Manager Stacey Robinson and Work Order and Billing Manager Sherry Bakley.

Board member Melvin Cummings address President Schlack advising OST Vice President Darla Black would like to be put on the agenda to attend the February board meeting. Member Service Representative Manager Stacey Robinson will contact Ms. Black to inform her of the date/time of February board meeting.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the December 2018 minutes.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Schlack with none being added.

The Operating Report for November and the List of Disbursements for December were presented by Finance and Benefits Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the check audit committee's review of the list of December checks and disbursements.

Anna presented the December Analysis of Investments which was reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Sherry reported on the retirement of estates; surveys; end of year audit reports; taxes; closing work orders; that has sent out letters in an attempt to collect payment

before writing off members accounts; making sure the new rates are billing correctly and on disconnects.

Stacey reported that call volumes continue to be high with over 600 calls being handled between the Member Services Representatives within a two week time frame which does not include transfer calls; about work in progress on the *Cooperative Connections*; gave an update on the upcoming Annual Meeting Directors up for re-election (Troy, Neal, Wade, Connie and City of Martin) and she helped billing with disconnections.

Member Services Representative Manager Stacey Robinson said Joyce Wilson, a board member from the Heritage Center in Martin, approached her about having the board either donate or obtain a copy of an old picture of Martin back in the (1920s we are estimating) which is displayed in the Lacreek Board Room. The board agreed to let her take the picture to make a copy; however, if the copy is not legible, agreed to donate the original picture to the Heritage Center.

Mike reported on work in progress; that Aerial and Digger-Derrick inspections are scheduled for the third week in February with Altec Mobile Services; that four lineman attended the Joint Utility Workshop in Sioux Falls, he has conducted several planning meetings for the upcoming year to get a good idea as to which work plan jobs need completed this year and that the line crew had an accident with the post hole digger attachment.

The safety report was presented by Mike.

Josh reported that the youth programs are on the website and being promoted on Facebook; will be contacting the school counselors to get more applications for the programs; the Scholarship deadline is Feb. 22, Youth Tour deadline is March 1 and Youth Excursion is April 5; that he attended the Electro-Technology Expo in Rapid City; that we will be honoring ER at the upcoming annual meeting; the North Shop has been organized and cleaned up; has material coming in for reject pole changes and looking into a barcoding system to assist in keeping track

of inventory.

Donovan reported on the SDREA meeting he attended.

Wade and Troy reported on the SDREA annual meeting they attended.

Tom reported on the Rushmore Electric meeting he attended.

Derek reported on legal issues; on the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRCO); that he conducted a quarterly employee meeting updating employees on Capital Budget items, reviewed employee payroll and selected 2019 Employee Committees attached hereto; met with OST Vice President Darla Black; attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting; that first year RESAP Certification coming in March and on upcoming events.

Discussion was held on any possible Bylaw changes that would need to be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting. The board received a copy of the Bylaw Book and will review it. A meeting will be held by the Policy and Bylaw Committee before the February board meeting.

Finance and Benefits Manager went over the 990 form that the board is required to complete.

Discussion was held on the NRECA annual meeting in March. The board will notify Member Service Representative Manager Stacey Robinson confirming attendance to the upcoming meeting no later than Jan. 31. Currently, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Line Foreman Jesse Byerley and Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning are attending the meeting.

The board excused the staff and went into executive session from 4:38 p.m. to 5:17 p.m.

The board came out of executive session and accepted the resignation of General Manager Derek Sorley.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to open the General Manager's position internally as an Interim General Manager with applications being due Feb. 1 and interviews to be conducted on Feb. 5.

Next Board Meeting – Feb. 19, 2019 at 1 p.m.

Non-discrimination Statement

Lacreek Electric Association is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

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Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov



See you at the Annual Meeting

Mark April 25 on your calendars!

American Legion Auditorium, Martin

 Lacreek Electric Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Find Your Account

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before April 4 and you will receive an \$100 credit on your next month's billing.

If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$110 in the next issue.

When the lights go out, we've got your back.

#ThankALineworker





Extreme cold temperatures put the components of wind towers at risk of failure, which is the reason many wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shut down at the end of January.

POWERING THROUGH WINTER

Extreme Cold Requires An 'All of the Above' Approach to Meet Demand for Electricity

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

The record-setting cold and snow in South Dakota this winter led to record demand for power. The cold snap also highlighted the need for the continued use of coal and natural gas generation as many wind generators in the region had to be shut down as a result of the frigid weather.

Extreme cold descended into the Upper Midwest in January and didn't release its grip for several weeks. East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., which supplies wholesale power to 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally owned system in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, experienced an all-time record peak for electric demand on Jan. 29 and 30. Wind chills dipped to 20 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero during that time period.

"The East River system performed well under these extreme weather conditions with very few issues," said East River General Manager/CEO Tom Boyko.

Member co-ops of East River Electric depend on a reliable supply of power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

in Bismarck, N.D., as well as hydropower from the Western Area Power Administration. Basin Electric owns and operates the coal, gas, diesel and wind generation resources needed to meet the demand of member co-ops located in nine states in the middle of the United States.

"Basin Electric is your cooperative," said Dave Raatz, Basin Electric senior vice president of asset management, resource planning and rates. "We are trying to do what we can to ensure everyone has the appropriate power so they do have the ability to have the electric heat and they do have the ability to have electricity at the house."

Basin Electric had plans in place to meet the demand of co-op members during the extreme cold in January and February despite the challenges the frigid temperatures caused its generation resources. Basin Electric saw many of its wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shutdown as a result of cold temperatures and had to rely on natural gas and coal generation as well as market purchases.

According to Basin Electric Senior Vice President of Operations John Jacobs, wind towers become brittle and cannot operate

Weather stations installed on wind turbines automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

during extreme cold. Weather stations installed on each turbine automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

“The best analogy I can give is a rubber hose,” explained Jacobs. “If you warm it up enough, it will melt. If it gets too cold, it will get too brittle.”

That is the reason production from Basin Electric’s wind resources bottomed out in the early morning hours of Jan. 30 when the Bismarck area saw air temperatures of 31 degrees F below zero in North Dakota and the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, S.D., reported record low temperatures of 33 degrees F below zero or lower in Aberdeen, Watertown and Groton. Basin Electric’s fleet of natural gas and coal-fired power plants paired with energy purchases from the market provided co-op members with a reliable supply of electricity during that period.

“That’s why we have gas peaking units and you have that coal resource base that just continued operating despite cold weather over the entire area,” Raatz said.

‘All of the Above’ Approach

Basin Electric uses an ‘all of the above’ approach to supply electricity to member co-ops throughout South Dakota. Nearly 45 percent of its generation portfolio comes from coal-fired resources while 20 percent comes from natural gas units and another 20 percent from wind generation. Basin Electric is also a member of four power pools, which are large regions of the United States where utilities can buy and sell electricity in the market, and Basin Electric has the contractual transmission rights to more power between these regions.

“It is a combination of all those owned-assets and market purchases that come to bear to serve member load obligations,” Raatz said.

Basin Electric generates electricity for 141 electric co-ops in nine states and has power plants and resources

in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Iowa. Raatz said that regional diversity is just as important to providing reliable power as a diversified generation mix.

“That’s so valuable in coming up with a power supply. You don’t necessarily see that cold weather over the whole area,” said Raatz.

“People take electricity for granted. Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”

That regional diversity was evident during the cold snap in North Dakota and eastern South Dakota at the end of January. Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., which supplies power to eight electric cooperatives in western South Dakota saw higher demand for electricity during those time periods but never saw a record peak like the East River co-ops experienced. During that period, Basin Electric was also able to pull generation from resources in Montana and Wyoming because it wasn’t as frigid in those states.

Raatz said load management programs

which control water heaters, grain bin fans and other large loads during peak demand periods are also a piece of the power-supply puzzle. Raatz said the team at Basin Electric which forecasts electric demand can rely on members who have load management devices installed at their service locations to make those peaks less extreme.

“As you get into these types of conditions when it gets really cold, it is easier to predict because load management is taking out the spikes. It is really valuable,” Raatz said.

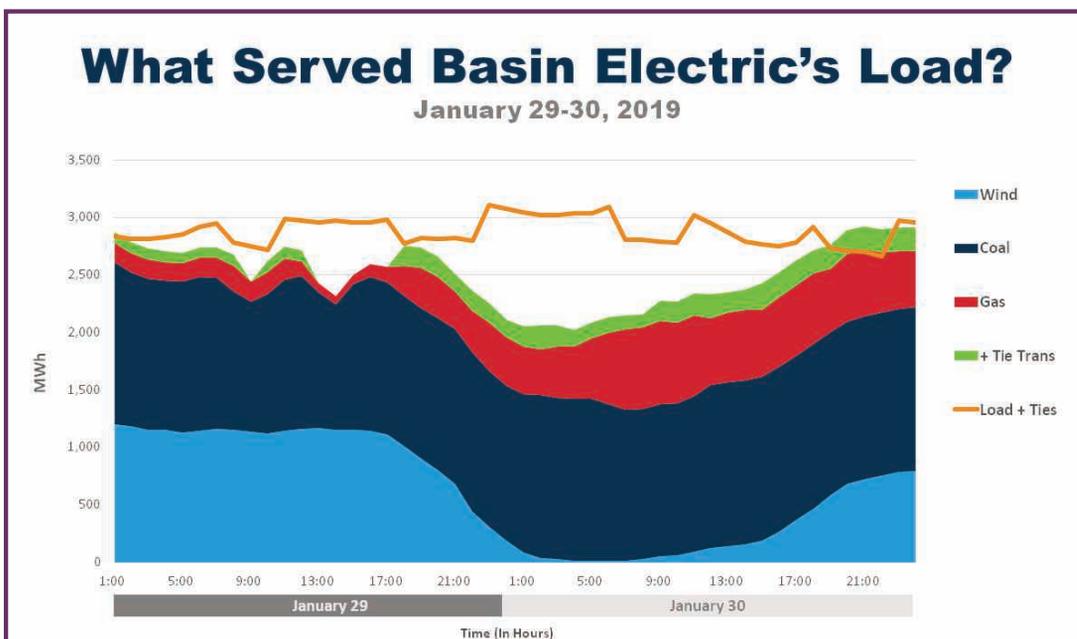
Maintaining Reliability

The main goal of electric cooperatives is to provide safe and reliable power for members at the end of the line. Jacobs said it takes a dedicated team of co-op employees to achieve that mission whether it is the operators at Basin Electric’s power plants or the co-op linemen at the local level.

“We see the importance of having to turn on that (light) switch because most of the time when the weather is bad, our employees are at work,” said Jacobs. “There is a reason for what we do and a good feeling when you walk away.”

And when the Great Plains and Upper Midwest experiences extreme weather, the goal of maintaining reliability becomes even more important.

“People take electricity for granted,” Raatz said. “Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”





LIFE ON THE LINE

Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

It's a unique life. They come in early to create a plan, grab their gear and drink their coffee before heading out in crews. Their office is outside and depending upon the day, they will work through the heat, rain, snow and wind to get the job done. Holidays could be postponed and normal working hours are determined by the weather. The job is considered one of the most dangerous, yet is often overlooked and under appreciated – that is, until the power goes out.

Life as a lineman is both rewarding and unpredictable. The rewards come when power is provided or restored to members down the line or when a farmer or rancher plows snow out of the way for a line crew to get through. There are even boasts among the linemen about a plate of cookies or sandwiches gifted by a member during storm repairs.

Jesse Sorenson, system coordinator for Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., commented that the hardest part of a lineman's job was bad weather, no sleep and being on call. But he ended by saying that the best part of the job was getting the power turned back on for members after a storm.

"They are just thankful to get the power on and it makes you feel really good to get it back on for them," said Sorenson.

The unpredictability of this job comes when the power is knocked out on a good day due to an overzealous squirrel, when the storm was bigger than predicted or even when the destination to an outage or work site is in the middle of nowhere and getting lost is an unfortunate possibility. However, despite volatile weather, rough terrain and squirrels, linemen have a very important job – getting reliable power through hundreds of miles of lines to thousands of member-owners... safely.

On Feb. 11, just after a minor intrusion of winter weather, Bill Brisk, operations manager at Black Hills Electric, carefully explained how outages were being found that morning due to

Black Hills Electric's Crew Foreman Dean Whitney and journeymen linemen Beau Bradeen, Ken Parker and Corey Scott replace poles near Red Shirt, S.D.



A pole worn out by cattle rubbing on it is replaced.

ice accumulation and wind damage. On the computer screen, areas indicating no power were highlighted, but it was up to the crews to find the exact location and reason for the outages.

“Sometimes it takes a long time to isolate the outage during a storm in the cold and in the dark. Outages during the day are a lot easier than at night,” said Brisk.

Brisk also explained the challenges their crews face in their service territory. Black Hills Electric serves power in rocky and sandy terrain found throughout the Black Hills, Badlands and prairies.

“We have rough terrain. Sometimes, you can see the next pole but it will take you half an hour to get to it,” said Brisk.

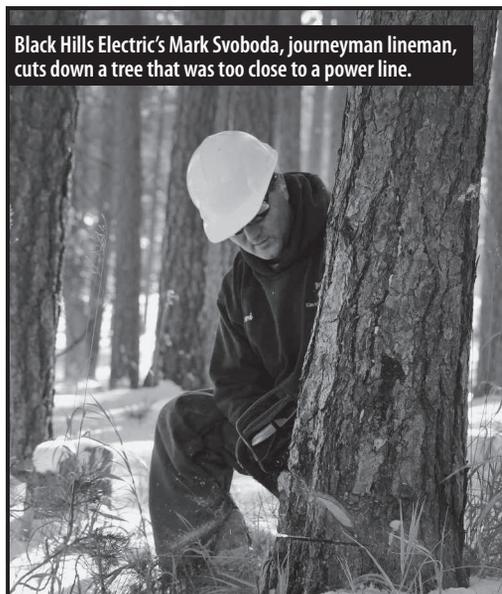
It’s a job that takes time, determination, endurance and concentration. Every day, these linemen work with energized lines, large equipment and changing weather. One mistake can result in serious consequences. This makes safety and mindfulness a priority. Brisk commented on how easy a mistake can be made on the job. He noted that these mistakes are unforgiving. No matter how small the mistake, devastating injuries or even death can occur.

“Linemen need safe equipment...they work 24/7, 365. When the post office shuts down due to bad weather, the linemen still go out,” said Mark Patterson, manager of loss control services for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, S.D.

For this reason, safety training, equipment, tools and even fire-retardant clothing are provided to ensure each lineman has what they need to do the job safely.

“There’s a lot of pride in being a lineman. A lineman has to be confident...they have to have a level of confidence in their own knowledge and ability before they work on an energized line,” said Travis Denison, loss control professional for SDREA, who previously served for 22 years as a lineman. As a safety guy, he also views safety as a critical part in lineman culture.

“Out of all the tools you have in your belt, safety is the most important. It’s about getting you home to your families safely,” said Denison.



Black Hills Electric’s Mark Svoboda, journeyman lineman, cuts down a tree that was too close to a power line.



Casey Ellerton, journeyman lineman, trims branches nearing a power line by Rockerville, S.D.

Lineman Items

Clothes

- Fire retardant (FR) jeans
- FR long-sleeve shirts
- FR or 100 percent cotton T-shirts
- High visibility shirts or vest
- Work boots
- Winter boots
- Leather gloves
- Winter gloves
- Rubber gloves
- Rubber sleeves
- FR coveralls
- FR coat
- FR sweatshirt
- FR raingear
- FR stocking hat
- FR balaclava
- Hardhat
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection

Tools

- Body belt
- Fall restraint
- Climbing hooks
- Safety harness
- Hammer
- Screwdrivers
- Knife
- Wooden tape measure
- Lineman pliers
- Channel lock pliers
- Adjustable wrench
- Rope handline
- Liveline tools
 - Shotgun
 - Extendo
- Overhead grounds
- Underground grounds

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8, 2019.

America’s electric cooperatives will again honor the hard working men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

March 22-23, 29-30

Mystery Dinner Theater, Legion Hall, Faulkton, SD, 605-380-1556

March 23

Annual Ag Day, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 29-30, April 5-6

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 29-31

Black Hills Home Builders Home Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-7850

March 30

Cultural Expo, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Campus, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-6884

March 30-31

29th Annual Hats Off to the Artist Art Show, Community Center, Faulkton, SD, 605-598-4482

April 4

McCrossan Banquet Auction featuring Loop Rawlins and the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: \$75 each, 605-339-1203, www.mccrossan.org

April 4-5

Holiday Arts Spring Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

April 5-6

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876



Photo courtesy: RJ Ripper Film

April 15-16: Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Elks Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4101

April 5-6, 11-14

Green Earth Players presents Drinking Habits, Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN, 507-283-9226

April 5-7

Professional Bull Riders Unleash the Beast Tour, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

April 6

The Big Grape, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-322-8900

April 6-7

Zonta Club Vendor and Craft Show, Northridge Plaza, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1403

April 7

Unni Boksasp from Norway in Concert, 2 p.m., Riggs Theater, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1992

April 12-14

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 13-14

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Rapid City, SD, 605-270-0764

April 18

John Mellencamp, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Fine Arts Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

April 19-20

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Belbas Theater inside the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

April 27

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

April 27-28

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

May 1-5

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

May 5

Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

May 11

Make-a-Wish Benefit Featuring Dueling Duel, Silent Auction and Wine Pull, Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

May 30-June 1

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

June 7-8

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterkus at 605-722-1430

June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575, www.dalesburg.org

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.