

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720-0570



STREET ADDRESS

250 Main Avenue
Akron, CO 80720



ph 970-345-2291
tf 800-660-2291
fax 970-345-2154
web www.ywelectric.coop

Y-W Electric Association, Inc. is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK, GENERAL MANAGER

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists power line repairers and installers among those having the most dangerous jobs in the United States. That's why for us at Y-W Electric Association, Inc., safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our members-owners. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but getting our employees home safely to their loved ones at the end of the day is equally important. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help.

DISTRACTIONS CAN BE DEADLY

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety.

Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Y-W Electric Association, Inc. employees by the logo on their uniforms and hard hats and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local communities.

SLOW DOWN AND MOVE OVER

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you follow state law and move over and slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. [Delman Craig, 592606401]

CLAIM YOUR CREDIT

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you recognize your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Names in May 2019 issue to claim \$20 credit:

Larry C. Smith
Richard L. and Patricia S. Lewton

Billing Corner

Vacations and Your Electric Usage While You're Away

Summer is here and many of us are thinking of taking vacations. Electric consumers frequently ask why their bill is so high when they are away from home all day or have left for a week's vacation.

Lifestyle and size of the family determine the amount of energy used, rather than the quantity of time spent in the home. People who are gone all day use greater amounts of electricity in shorter periods of time; when an individual stays home all day, the electrical usage is spread over the day. For example, there is little difference in the amount of laundry or cooking required for a family that remains home compared to a family gone all or part of the day.

Activities prior to vacation may include house cleaning, extra clothes washing, etc.

There is a repeat of this activity when the vacationer returns with clothes to be washed and countless other chores to be performed with the aid of electrical appliances.

Many people have the misconception they can turn their thermostats up to 85 degrees, leave the house for a week or two and their electric bill will drop. That simply isn't the case.

A vacant house at 85 degrees will not use much less energy than an occupied house at 68 degrees.

It should be remembered that appliances, such as furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, clocks and instant-on televisions, will continue to operate through automatic controls. They require little attention and are often forgotten by the consumer. In contrast, we pay attention to the lights because they are manually operated by a switch.

If you plan to leave your house for an extended period of time, we recommend you turn up thermostats, remembering that higher settings do not eliminate all usage. Disconnect, whenever possible, such things as televisions, well pumps and water heaters, remembering to drain all water lines when necessary.

Please remember to let the billing department (800-660-2291) know if you need your bill forwarded to a temporary address if you plan on being gone for any length of time. Also, to help you determine your usage period, the reading dates for the billing cycle is printed on your bill. As always, we welcome your comments or questions. Have a great summer!
[Jaden D. Blach, 853101602]



It's Fair Time Again on the Northeastern Plains

The Eastern Colorado Roundup takes place July 30 – August 3 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Akron.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

July 29

- Gymkhana

July 30

- Horse Show
- Swine Show

July 31

- Sheep Show
- Goat Show
- Rabbit and Poultry Shows
- Ranch Rodeo
- Buck and Jim Jones Memorial Team Roping

August 1

- Beef Show
- Home Ec & Horticulture Awards
- NSPA Sled Pull

August 2

- Parade
- Round Robin
- Ranch Bronc Riding and Bull Riding
- Mutton Busting and Calf Riding
- Junior Livestock Sale barbecue & Watermelon Feed **Sponsored by Y-W Electric**
- Junior Livestock Sale

August 3

- Catch it Contests
- Pedal Tractor Pull
- Concert featuring Colt Ford with Special Guest Koe Wetzel

August 4

- Breakfast and Church Service

See www.ecroundup.com for full schedule, event times and ticket sales information.

Yuma County Fair takes place August 3 – 7 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, Yuma.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

July 30

- Fashion Review

August 2

- Dog Show

August 3

- Horse Show
- Swine Judging
- Dan Kirchenschlager Memorial Roping

August 4

- Cowboy Church Services
- Gymkhana Events
- Dairy, Goat, Sheep Shows
- Draft Horse Pull Contest

August 5

- Beef, Poultry, Rabbit Judging
- Bucket Calf Show
- Junior Livestock Sale

August 6

- Parade – Downtown Yuma
- Barbecue
- Watermelon Feed **Sponsored by Y-W Electric**
- Horse Racing
- PRCA Rodeo
- Round Robin Showmanship Judging
- Eric Paslay Grandstand Show

August 7

- PRCA Rodeo Slack
- Youth Pedal Tractor Pull
- Horse Race
- PRCA Rodeo

Visit www.yumacounty.net for full schedule, event times and ticket sales information. [Mindi Segelke, 2004009006]

Hope to see you at the fair!

Three Y-W Area Students to Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is scheduled for the week of July 13-18, 2019, at the Glen Eden Resort. Y-W Electric will sponsor three of the participants.

On January 2, a panel of judges interviewed a group of applicants from area schools. Orian Wagers of Akron High School, Elijah Myers of Arickaree High School and Talon Glanz of Idalia High School were selected to be delegates to the camp this year.

Rural electric systems from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma sponsor outstanding high school students for the camp. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power generation and the rural electric program. The camp also develops leadership skills in young people.

The camp is run by the participants. At the first meeting, the students elect a board of directors to govern the cooperative. The board then selects the general manager, who is responsible for managing the camp



▲ Orian Wagers



▲ Elijah Myers



▲ Talon Glanz

activities. Each board member is the chairperson of a committee. Each participant of the camp has a responsibility to take an active role in the workings of the cooperative. He or she may seek an office and have a part in running the camp or volunteer to serve on the various committees.

The committees are responsible for activities, such as setting up and enforcing the rules of the camp, planning games, operating the camp canteen, planning sports activities and planning a dance and banquet. Besides being a lot of fun, the Leadership Camp also provides an excellent learning experience. Participants have the opportunity to meet over 100 students their

own age from a variety of backgrounds. Educational tours to a power plant and a coal mine are among the experiences awaiting the students. A strong cooperative spirit is developed through accomplishing the many goals set during the week. Adult counselors are present at all times to facilitate the learning experience.

The Glen Eden Resort in Clark (beside the Elk River) is a beautiful outdoor location in a secluded area. The camp setting is 18 miles north of Steamboat Springs. The students can have fun, make noise, hike and wade in the river without bothering other guests. [Betty J. Hagler, 3702005000]

What's Cookin', Good Lookin'? Stay Safe While Cooking

There are many cooking-related conveniences designed to make life easier: slow cookers, instant pots, air fryers, hot plates, electric skillets, toasters and toaster ovens, to name a few. In addition, probably the most obvious cooking mainstay in the kitchen that can be electric is the stove and cooktop.

When preparing a meal or snack, inattention and electrical appliances don't mix. It might seem like a good idea to start dinner on the cooktop or in the toaster oven and then tend to other things, but doing so may not always have a great result. According to the National Fire Prevention Association, 32% of home cooking fires are caused by unattended equipment, which is the leading factor in causing the fire.

Always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food. Keep anything that can catch fire, including oven mitts, food wrappers, towels and wooden utensils, away from your cooktop or cooking surface.

Using appliances that are faulty or those that

have damaged cords or plugs are additional safety hazards that are often overlooked. Make sure appliances are in good working condition and never use an appliance that is in disrepair or one that's already lived a full and productive life.

Small appliance life span depends greatly on how often you use it, how you maintain it and its quality, but, in general, the average life expectancy of most small kitchen appliances is five to 10 years. Exceptions include a mid- to high-end toaster, which can last six to eight years, and a toaster oven, which works an average of five years. So, if you reach your 20th wedding anniversary and you're still using the small appliances you received as wedding gifts, you might want to consider replacing them.

To stay safe while cooking, Safe Electricity and Y-W Electric remind you of the following additional tips:

- Make sure your appliances are plugged into a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet. When working properly, the GFCI senses any power flow imbalances and, in turn, trips

the circuit.

- Make sure all electric cords are in good working condition; do not use appliances that have frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable cords or plugs, especially those with exposed wires.
- If you use extension cords, make sure they are in good condition and that the correct type of cord is used for the job. For example, don't use an everyday, thin extension cord for a high-powered appliance. Use them as a temporary solution, not a permanent one.
- Although often an "I'll do it later" task, read the appliance's operating instructions prior to use. Although not necessarily a safety issue, always unplug small appliances when not in use to prevent unnecessary energy consumption, especially if the appliance has LED displays or other standby energy-consuming features.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Always Assume a Downed Power Line Is Deadly

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you, too, could become a victim by entering the energized area.

Power lines can come down or sag close to the ground for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident, for instance. And a downed line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris.

Stay clear of all types of utility lines. Even if you think lines might be designated for telephone or cable service, they

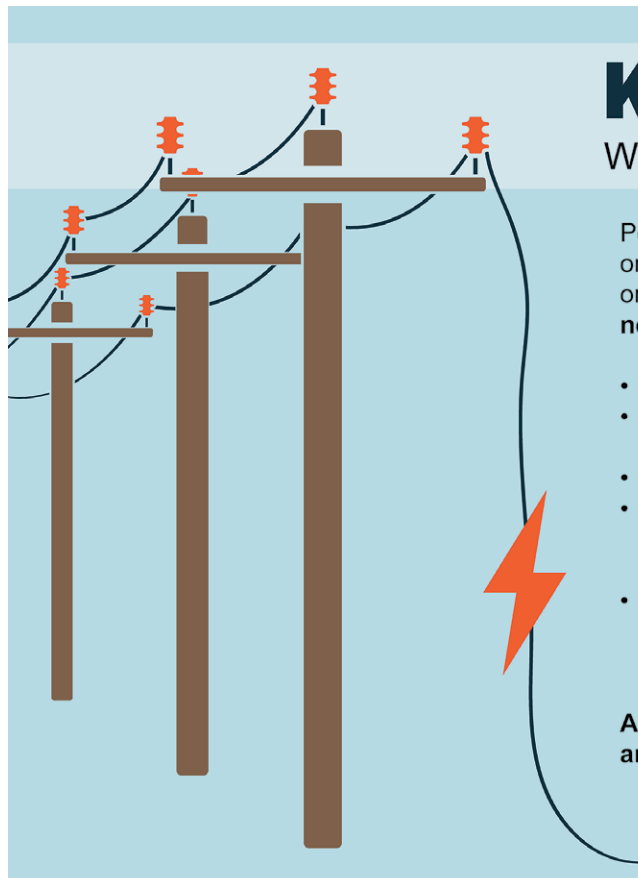
may have contact with damaged and energized power lines nearby. Safe Electricity and Y-W Electric offer these additional safety reminders:

- Call 911 to report fallen or damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed line or anything it is touching with another object, such as a stick or pole. Even materials that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are slightly wet.
- Do not step in water or walk in debris near a downed power line.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the downed power line.
- Do not attempt to drive over a

downed power line.

- If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and stay inside the vehicle until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and do not walk. Instead, hop away to safety.
- Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.

Always consider all lines to be energized at deadly voltages, regardless of the type. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. [Paul and Cassandra Campfield, 1140219804]




KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

Power lines can come down for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones. **When lines do go down there are precautions you need to take to stay safe:**

- **Call 9-1-1** to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines **do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.**
- Stay at least **10 feet away** from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, **remain in the vehicle** until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- **If there is a fire** or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

Always treat a downed power line as live and never touch any wire that is down. Learn more at:

 **Safe Electricity.org**