

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MAY 2021

MAILING ADDRESS

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STREET ADDRESS

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Y-W Electric Association, Inc. is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our consumer-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.

TREE TRIMMING IMPROVES SERVICE FOR ALL

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Y-W Electric Association, Inc., we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way.

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in right-of-way areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a “right-of-way” is and how it may impact you. A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. Right-of-way areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the right-of-way. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our consumer-members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

SAFETY

First and foremost, we care about our consumer-members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees

are touching power lines in our members’ yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

RELIABILITY

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

AFFORDABILITY

As you know, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.



May 2021

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

Gary & Karla Saffer, 1241727200

Claim Your Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric offers 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.)

Winners claiming \$20 from March 2021 issue:

- Dustan Ricker
- Amber Smith
- Carlos Camacho & Nathan Witte
- Rose Schmidt

Billing Corner

SmartHub Bill Pay & More

For convenience, Y-W Electric offers the ability to pay your account with the SmartHub app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit or debit card or checking account. This is also a great place to go to get account information. Information on billing history, usage, payment history and past billing invoices are available. There is also a link to sign up for auto payment.

Reporting an outage is also available on SmartHub. This information goes directly to our operations department in an email. This leaves our phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available.

The app is compatible with iPhones as well as Android devices. **Check our website at www.ywelectric.coop for more information.** [Todd & Chasta Lambert, 222804110]

5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- 1. Power Lines** – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 2. Outdoor outlets** – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.
- 3. Pools** – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.
- 4. Extension Cords** – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.
- 5. Electric Garden Tools** – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

[Spring Canyon Feeds LLC, 5402002301]

Y-W 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

Y-W \$500 ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS



Jada Young — Yuma



Alyssa Chapman — Wray



Kacyn Kessinger — Akron



Jaret Lichty — Liberty



Jaycie Mekelburg — Yuma



Jared Mason — Arickaree

Y-W 4-YEAR, \$1,000 RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS



Madison Godsey — Wray



Emma Richardson — Yuma

TRI-STATE G&T \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS



Nadalyn Poss — Akron



Caitlyn Danforth — Wray

Y-W \$1,000 ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS



Brandy Henrickson — Idalia



Mariah Demers — Akron



Shelby Blach — Yuma



Maisy Wade — Wray



Tyler Reynolds — Otis



Sara Wylie — Akron



Lane Remmich — Yuma



Macy Richards — Idalia



AnnaLise Glosson — Akron



Anthoneya Schaffert — Otis

BASIN \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



Jacob Miller — Akron

LINE TECH \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



Tyler Hase — Liberty

\$500 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Rachel Patterson — Otis attending NJC



Tyson Lichty — Liberty attending University of Nebraska



Know What's Above and Below Before Using a Hoe (or Other Outdoor Tools)

When the temperature warms to signal the arrival of spring, many of us begin planning improvements to our outdoor spaces. This could include building a deck, adding a patio or assembling play equipment for your family to enjoy. However, it is important to plan for safety prior to adding an outdoor structure or improving your yard.

Power line awareness

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vitally important for your family's safety. Even drop-down lines, the lines that bring power to a home, have voltages running through them and can be dangerous. Always look up and around for power lines — recognizing, too, that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact — before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job.

Y-W Electric and Safe Electricity offer these tips to keep in mind while working in your yard:

- Assume that all power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding. [Jerry & Cheryl Patterson, 3013005003]
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area, noting all power line locations.
- Call 811 or your state's underground utility locator service to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.
- Utility locators do not mark private lines, however. Private underground lines — typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor — include, but are not limited to:
 - Irrigation or septic system lines
 - Lines that service outbuildings (electric, gas, water and communication)
 - Lines between the meter and your home
 - Lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs
 - Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service
- Once underground utilities are marked, the 811 "Call Before You Dig" service recommends that the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Do not install tree houses, play sets or swing sets, pools or decks, and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment, including the arc of a swing, and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate your children about power line safety and how electricity can jump. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one — either directly or with a toy or object — before sending them outside to play. This is especially important if they climb trees, fly kites or use remote-controlled devices, such as a remote controlled airplane or drone.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools around trees and power lines.
- Also use extreme caution and look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, boom lift, scaffolding or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree-trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

Please contact us with questions about specific power line clearance recommendations concerning decks, pools and play structures in your yard.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. [Geronimo Rodriguez & Velia Gonzalez, 4404004605]

