

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2021



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**OFFICES CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 6
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY**



DISCONNECTING BY UNPLUGGING

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO | JACKJ@SECPA.COM



JACK JOHNSTON

Most of us adults have a vague memory of a time when “checking for messages” meant listening to an answering machine. I still recall checking for weather by calling the telephone company recording or simply reading a newspaper forecast. We carried on our days without relying on cellphones and managed just fine, but today we are more connected than ever through our smartphones and other devices.

Our phones are so much more now — from cameras to calendars to social media connections — and truly disconnecting from them can be difficult. But it’s even harder for our kids to unplug because they only know life with these tiny screens. It’s difficult for them to imagine life without computers, gaming devices, tablets or cellphones.

But there’s great value in unplugging for children and adults, even if it’s for just a short period of time. For kids, time away from the screen to be outside with other children allows them to connect with nature and others in a way that a virtual experience simply does not allow. They are able to experience life in the moment and allow their creativity and energy to break free. Adults can also find meaningful opportunities to spend time with the kids or enjoy their own hobbies. We are fortunate that southeastern Colorado offers so many outdoor activities and they are only a portion of what the rest of our state has to offer.

While you and your children are disconnecting, it can certainly offer potential energy savings. Unplugging electronics that

are not in use can avoid “vampire” energy loss. This is the energy that is drained from technology and electronics even when they are not in use. For example, although it is turned off, your television is waiting to receive a signal from the remote and your DVR is waiting to record the next show or perform an update. This is also true for many other devices.

But, when you are plugged in, we are always here to help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. So, don’t ever hesitate to reach out because we are always happy and proud to serve our membership.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP SERIES TARRYN JOHNSON CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

Most everything we do at both SECPA and SECOM has some sort of direct or indirect legal aspect to it. It’s just simply how many societal and business transactions or relationships are rooted. One of our greatest responsibilities and duties is to protect and preserve our businesses from any internal or external risk. Tarryn accepted that tremendous role in July after her predecessor’s retirement. This position, and its importance to our daily operations, has evolved over the past years. It’s an integral support element at all levels of management decision making.

Tarryn was raised on a cattle ranch in Alamosa. She attended Adams State University where she obtained a B.A. — Government. Texas Tech University School



^ Tarryn Johnson, Chief Legal Officer

of Law was her next stop where she was part of the Texas Tech Law Review and recipient of the Fortney Ethics Award and Kellin Zimmer Service & Leadership Award. Her state called her home, and she began practicing law in the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender in the 15th and 16th Judicial Districts. Based in La Junta, she served Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers, Baca, Bent, Otero and Crowley counties — mirroring much of SECPA service territory.

As the daughter and granddaughter of cattle ranchers, she has a special appreciation and respect for the tenacity, work ethic and never-say-die attitude that exemplifies rural Colorado and its residents. She enjoys spending most of her time with family, enjoying the coveted Colorado mountains as often as possible. She loves fly-fishing, camping, hiking and admiring the magnificent landscapes across the state.



YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

Last month's winner was Marvin Clark.

It's Back to School Time!



Stay alert and watch out for walkers when driving.



OUR INTERNET SERVICE OPENS UP A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

As this school year begins, let's celebrate old friends reunited in the classroom and new possibilities explored at home.

With our super-fast Internet, your household has access to virtually unlimited ways to learn. VR headsets and apps can transport your children to outer space, take them on safari, or make them feel like they're inside a famous painting. Social media builds connections and inspires creativity, and streaming videos offer lessons on any subject.

CALL 800-657-7149 TO LEARN ABOUT OUR CURRENT INTERNET SPEEDS AND PRICING.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER CONSUMERS:
CALL US AND MENTION "POWER"
FOR A FREE INSTALL



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Farm Safety Coloring Sheet

Farm Health and Safety Week is September 19-25! Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always remember to avoid playing near power lines and other electrical equipment.



Energy Explorers





Tips for a SAFE Harvest

BY ABBY BERRY

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous — even deadly — when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deploy flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.

⚠ In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States. Photo: Bob Nichols, USDA

- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it) and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

*WIN Linda Jones 1004510000

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



⚠ When practicing farm safety, consider all equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Photo: Lance Cheung, USDA