



Understand the Risks of Downed Power Lines

When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact us or local emergency services. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines, could be in contact with an energized power line making them very dangerous. So stay away from all of them!

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed power line can energize things around it.

Keep in mind a line that is indeed “dead” could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators. Keep reading this issue for tips on ensuring your generator is hooked up and used properly.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact us or emergency personnel. Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come into contact with your vehicle.

If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle if safe. Wait until your co-op or emergency personnel have arrived and de-

energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your vehicle, only in the case of fire, jump free from the car and hop away from it with both feet together or move by sliding your feet with continuous contact on the ground.

SEE A DOWNED LINE? HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Stay back at least 10 feet!
- Always treat any downed line as potentially energized.
- Check that it's on our lines at www.pvrea.coop/service-territory.
- Report it, even after-hours, at 800.432.1012.
- Or report it by calling 911.
- We'll dispatch a crew to investigate.

Find safety resources and information online at www.pvrea.coop

Stay Safe on the Bus: What to do if power lines fall on a bus

Whether you're a school bus driver or a student riding one, it's important for you to know what to do in the event that power lines come into contact with your bus. Here are a few safety tips and rules to follow:

- Stay calm and stay inside the vehicle.
- Call 911 or call your co-op at 800.432.1012.
- Warn others to stay away from the vehicle.
- Stay seated, and do not exit the vehicle until utility crews say it is safe to do so.
- If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time.
- Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety.



Educational **Safety Demonstrations**

Safety is a cornerstone of who we are. We want to teach you, your kids, your friends, and your neighbors about electric safety. Because that's also our community, and we want to keep our community safe. We provide free educational presentations.

We asked the 4th grade teaching team at Range View Elementary School in Severance, CO why our Electrical Safety Demonstrations were important for their students. Here's what they had to say!

Why did you request an electrical safety demonstration?

We are currently learning about energy. The (PVREA) Power Town demonstration helps give the students an overview of electricity, how it is transferred, and how to be safe around power lines and boxes.

Why is the material important? The material is important for a variety of reasons including safety and understanding the world around them.

What is the key take-away for the class/group?

The presentation was age appropriate and allowed

for the students to absorb information, while inquiring deeper. They were all able to ask questions and have them clearly answered.

What is the number one reason someone should see a safety demonstration? A big take-away was when the lineman talked about the reasons to not climb on the power boxes at the park.

Would you recommend this safety demonstration to others? Why? Yes, it was engaging. The students' favorite part of the demonstration was seeing Power Town in action and all the different ways one could be electrocuted. They also learned different ways to stay safe in a power outage and when there are live power lines surrounding a vehicle.

Reserve your Safety Demonstration online at www.pvrea.coop/electrical-safety-demonstrations

Use Back-Up Generators **Safely**

During long-term power outages, many members might rely on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable generators has resulted in millions being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. Is yours?

We urge members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken in order to keep you and our lineworkers safe around your generators. Improper installation or use could threaten the lives of you, your family, friends, neighbors, and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN ENSURE YOUR GENERATOR IS SAFE:

- Maintain adequate ventilation.
- Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.
- Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.
- Protect your appliances by turning off or disconnecting them before you begin the generator's operation.
- Use proper extension cords.
- Remember maintenance between uses.



Read more about generator safety and ensure yours is safe at www.pvrea.coop/storm-safety-tips

Member Credits

What does “Your not-for-profit electric cooperative” mean? Well any margins are returned to our membership in the form of member credits. And these really add up: We’ve returned \$18.6 million to members in the last six years.

In 2021, the Co-op paid \$3.6 million in member credits to members who received service from PVREA for the years 1993, 1994, 2004, 2005, and 2020 or any combination of those years. In September 2021, current members during the years mentioned above received their credits on their September bill statement or received a check in the mail. If you were a previous member and had built up at least \$10 worth of credit, your member credit check would have been mailed to you.

Every year there are some checks returned to us because the Post Office could not deliver for a variety of reasons. **We have published a list of unclaimed member credits online at www.pvrea.coop/member-credits. If you see your name, or the name of someone you know, contact our Member Service Department at 1-800-432-1012.**

OUR MEMBER CREDITS PROCESS



1. We track how much electricity you use throughout the year.
2. After expenses are paid, we calculate margins.
3. We use margins to pay down debt, invest in facilities and improvement projects, and allocate to members as member credits based on their usage of electricity.
4. If financial conditions allow, we return member credits to members as bill credits.

8 Spring Planting Tips for Your Farm

A safe planting season comes down to patience, preparedness, and your precautions. We encourage you to put safety first this spring planting season. Here are eight ways you can keep safe while planting this spring.

- **Buckle up:** Tractor-related injuries account for 40% of farm-related fatalities.
- **Resist the temptation for riders:** A young rider may cause distractions, and cabs are not indestructible.
- **Explain where the “Back 80” is:** You may know how to get there, but make sure everyone else does. Keep directions and names around the farm, at home, and with commonly used tractors so people know exactly where to send help if needed.
- **Use safety lighting, markings, and escort vehicles:** Ensure lights are bright, your signage is visible, and you have others to assist while traveling on roadways.
- **Educate hired help:** Whether you’re working with 10-year team members or summer help, review equipment safety features and expectations with everyone.
- **Protect yourself and others:** Ensure everyone wears appropriate protective equipment.
- **Stay alert and get some sleep:** Sleep deprivation slows down response time, impairs judgement, and can lead to increased risk of serious injury.
- **Pack a safety kit:** Keep a well-stocked safety kit in the truck, tractor cab, shop, or commonly used areas.

Get Your Rebate

As we start our spring cleaning and summer projects, take a moment to consider the benefits of electric appliances. When you’re ready for purchase, or if you already have, don’t forget to submit your rebate online within 90-days of purchase to earn money back!



Submit your rebate application online 90-days from purchase online at www.pvrea.coop/rebates

What Does **Memorial Day** Mean to You?

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. But apart from a day off work, typically spent outdoors with friends and family, what does this holiday mean? What should we be remembering during this day?

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This day memorializes the veterans who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

We encourage all members to pause and contemplate the sacrifices of those who perished defending our freedoms, the legacies they left behind, and what we can do to honor their memories.

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED » Monday, May 30
IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY**

The Value of **Board Leadership & Training**

As your electric co-op, we are guided by an elected Board of Directors who represent our members' best interest. Being a member of your co-op's Board is an important position, and it takes substantial time, effort in education, and training. Our directors have demonstrated their desire to advance their experience and leadership by earning credentials through extensive training and education.

We are proud to announce Jan Peterson has successfully earned his Director Gold Credential by NRECA. Trainings like this are specifically designed to help electric co-op Directors understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up to date on the key issues and trends in our industry, and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric co-ops now and in the future. Please join us in congratulating Jan!



PVREA Director Jan Peterson (left) is presented his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by PVREA Board Chair Steve Anderson (right)

MAY 2022 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH**



EVEN IN SUMMER MONTHS, ADDING INSULATION TO YOUR ATTIC CAN KEEP YOUR HOME MORE COMFORTABLE AND SAVE ENERGY USED BY YOUR COOLING SYSTEM.

If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists, you should add more. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots, and ensure the areas along eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energy.gov