

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2022



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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 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.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY YEAR-ROUND

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

At Y-W Electric Association Inc., we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted every year as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity — it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As general manager, it's my responsibility to keep our electric co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Y-W Electric hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year — to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I want to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged

or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can cope with only a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Consider an electrical inspection for your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old or you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Y-W Electric for additional electrical safety tips or if you want us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event. [Andy Richards-5291002004]

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION AWARDS 26 SCHOLARSHIPS

FOUR-YEAR Y-W ELECTRIC \$1,000 RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS



John Smith – Yuma



Kylin Hillman – Wray



Jaden Dodsworth – Wray

Keeping with a longstanding tradition of providing scholarships to local students, Y-W Electric Association is pleased to announce its 2022 scholarship winners. Congratulations to the following students who are committed to continuing their education after graduation. [Efrain Rosas-1132909802]

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



Joslyn King – Arickaree



Emma Peebles – Arickaree



Marek Cody – Idalia



Andre Baucke – Yuma



Katelynn Shaw – Akron



Tyler Allen – Yuma



Chloe Cure – Wray



Samuel Koolstra – Arickaree



Bradie Midcap – Wray



David McCaffrey – Akron



**BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**



▲ Mia Dischner – Yuma

**TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION
\$500 SCHOLARSHIPS**



▲ Mason Metzler – Otis



▲ Jaxson Lungwitz - Yuma

Y-W ELECTRIC \$500 ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS



▲ Harper Whitehead – Yuma



▲ Titus Glanz – Idalia



▲ Landry Peeples – Arickaree



▲ Emma Bohnen – Stratton



▲ Janessa Shook – Akron



▲ Jordlyn Wiltfang – Wray



▲ Hannah Ridnour – Wray



▲ Kennedy Frank – Stratton



▲ Kaycee McBride – Wray



▲ Quincy Basler – Akron



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth, and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Y-W Electric Association Inc. provides these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

STAYING SAFE ON THE ROAD

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision. [Chad Hinderscheit-2731005010]

1. If you see a downed power line, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is de-energized. Wait in your vehicle until a Y-W Electric Association crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Even if the line is de-energized, contacting the line could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

STAYING SAFE OUTSIDE

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines. [Alejandra Bencomo and Julian Torres-2733008321]

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
2. Make sure that all outside outlets are protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI).
3. Before digging, call 811. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line,

- any fines due to damage are the responsibility of the homeowner or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems (such as a sprinkler system) will not be marked by the free service.
4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside or in a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

STAYING SAFE INSIDE

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load. [Mark R. and Jennifer M. Roth-731428300]

1. Have a qualified electrician check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights; a sizzling or buzzing sound; the smell of warm plastic; a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched; sparks when plugging in or unplugging items; or circuits that trip often.
2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or a workshop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath or shower or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cellphones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

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

BILLING CORNER

SMARTHUB BILL PAY AND MORE

For convenience, Y-W Electric Association 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 Y-W Electric's 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 Androids. Check our website at ywelectric.coop for more information.

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.)



Winners claiming \$20 from the March 2022 issue:

- Roger and Joan Deines
- Gregory L. Klein
- Devin and Tami Ridhour