

TAKE THE LEAD IN FIRE PREVENTION



Scan to get tips to reduce your home's wildfire risk.

When it comes to wildfires, weather and geography aren't on our side in San Isabel country. Colorado weather is as wild as it gets. In April, most of the state endured nearly three weeks of red flag warnings. Winds were faster than freight trains and humidity levels were lower than Death Valley's. Then on April 24, the skies dumped more than a foot of heavy wet snow in some areas of southern Colorado.

Over the past 10 years, an average of 64,100 wildfires have burned 6.8 million acres annually. Yet, on average, only about 1% of wildfires become extensive, destructive fires.^[1] Many factors influence whether fires will develop into major fires, including weather and geography.

San Isabel Electric's grid spans 9,600 square miles of land in portions of seven counties. The service territory is larger than Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont combined. The terrain varies from flat prairies to rugged and heavily forested mountains. If you stretched out our 4,600 miles of power lines, they would reach from Anchorage, Alaska, to Tallahassee, Florida.

A large portion of the electric cooperative's lines and equipment is in remote, rural areas and/or are in rugged terrain, not easily accessible by roads or vehicles during good weather. They're even more difficult to access when lineworkers are dealing with rain, mud and snow, making their job very difficult and dangerous.

Since we only have about 80 employees, we heavily rely on cutting-edge technology, and you, the utility's member-owners, to help us monitor the system to identify damage that could become a wildfire threat.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Any time Stage 2 fire restrictions are issued, San Isabel Electric puts the grid into a fire-protection mode, turning off reclosers. A recloser is an automatic high-voltage electric switch that operates much like a circuit breaker in your home. When a household breaker trips, it will remain off until it is manually reset. A recloser will test the electric line by automatically closing to see if the problem has been removed.

If the problem was only temporary, the recloser will stay closed and power will remain on. This operation is sometimes seen as a "blink" at your home. In fire-protection mode, when a fuse trips, it cannot be remotely reset. A lineworker has to travel to the tripped fuse, replace it, and drive or walk along the lines and equipment, visually inspecting them, before power can be restored.

The enhanced fire mitigation measures can increase the frequency and length of outages for small groups of members. However, the consequences of wildfires are not taken lightly by San Isabel Electric employees. Safety of our members and employees is our top priority.

TREE TRIMMING

Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines or other utility equipment. When greenery becomes too close for comfort, we must address it because overgrowth can interfere with power distribution and create a fire hazard and cause outages.

In recent years, the co-op has increased the size of tree-trimming crews and re-evaluated the tree-trimming cycle. Now we trim every three years in areas where there is rapid growth and eight years in slower growth areas.

You can help us by reporting any trees that appear to be too close to power lines and keeping your own trees and bushes regularly trimmed. If you notice that your trees are growing into power lines, contact San Isabel Electric to determine the next recommended step. Only professionals who are trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance should do this work.

If your home is in or near grasslands, shrublands, foothills or mountains, you live in the wildland-urban interface where your home is inherently at risk from a wildfire. Scan the QR code above to check out the Colorado State Forest Service guide for tips to reduce your home's wildfire risk.

^[1]Source: Congressional Research Service, November 2020.

SIEA Board Member Resigns After 20 Years of Service

A long-serving member of the San Isabel Electric Board of Directors has formally resigned.

After 20 years, Joseph Costa, a Weston resident, resigned from the board on April 22. He served on the SIEA board as the District 7 representative, representing



Joseph Costa

Aguilar, Trinidad West and vicinity. "I very much enjoyed my years on the board. The board always had the members' best interests at heart. As for myself it was time to move on allowing someone else to experience what SIEA is about." Costa said.

Costa was first elected to the board of directors in 2003. He is a Cooperative Credentialed Director, Board Leadership Certified, and holds the Director Gold Credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"We are thankful for Mr. Costa's 20 years of dedicated service," said Edward Garcia, SIEA board of directors president.

Costa currently operates a ranch, raising cattle and hay with his wife and son. He also has a successful big game hunting operation

with his sons. He and his wife, Anita, have been married for 42 years. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

"I've truly enjoyed working with Mr. Costa, learning about the historical events that shaped our region, and hearing impactful stories from rural Las Animas County," said Ryan Elarton, San Isabel Electric's General Manager.

"Mr. Costa's passion for serving his constituents has been a blessing for our cooperative," Elarton continued.

The board will follow the cooperative's bylaws to determine next steps regarding the vacancy in District 7.

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES RYAN ELARTON AS GENERAL MANAGER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors is pleased to announce Ryan Elarton as SIEA's general manager and chief executive officer.

Elarton has been acting interim GM and CEO as well as the chief financial officer since mid-January. Elarton has been the CFO since 2014. Elarton will be the GM and CEO effective immediately.

"Ryan brings excellent communication skills to this leadership role. The board is confident that he will support the company's mission and vision of reliability, affordability and quality service," said Ray Garcia, San Isabel Electric's president of the board.

"It's an honor and privilege to be selected for this position. I look forward to serving our members throughout southern Colorado," Elarton said.

Prior to working for San Isabel Electric, Elarton was the CFO for District 70. He is familiar with the needs and challenges in southern Colorado. Elarton grew up in Lamar. He and his family became members of San Isabel Electric in 2004 when they moved to Pueblo West and have lived in the Greenhorn Valley since 2008.

In January, San Isabel Electric announced the departure of its GM and CEO Reg Rudolph. Rudolph had been GM and CEO since 2008. Rudolph was named the chief energy innovations officer at Tri-State Generation and Transmission. Tri-State produces the electricity that San Isabel Electric buys and distributes to southern Colorado.



Ryan Elarton

SAVE THE DATE SIEA ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | JOHN MALL HIGH SCHOOL | WALSENBURG

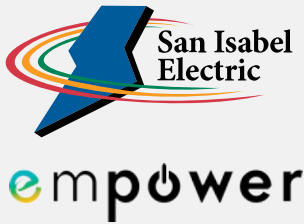
RUN FOR A POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There are three seats on the San Isabel Electric Board of Directors up for election in 2022:

- District 2 — Rye, Colorado City & Vicinity**
- District 7 — Aguilar, Trinidad West & Vicinity**
- District 8 — Pueblo West Proper**

San Isabel Electric belongs to the consumers it serves. Every consumer who buys electricity from San Isabel Electric is a member and owner of the company. At the Annual Meeting, members, just like you, are elected to serve on the Board of Directors, to make decisions

about rates, renewables and other ways the cooperative operates. A candidate can be nominated for a director position in two ways. The candidate can be selected by the Nominating Committee. Members of the Nominating Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors and will meet on June 22 at the SIEA headquarters in Pueblo West to nominate candidates. A candidate can also complete a petition, with at least 15 member signatures, and file it online no later than 5 p.m., July 19. **More information about running for the SIEA board is available at SIEA.com/BoardElections.**



12 MONTHS

No interest! Make the home upgrades you need now. **San Isabel Electric must be your electric utility.**

**0%
INTEREST**

Get Started Today!

719-647-6250

empower@sia.com

sia.com/empower

YOUR ONLY
ALL-IN-ONE
ENERGY-EFFICIENCY
RETAIL, INSTALLATION & FINANCING PROVIDER



WHOLE HOUSE FANS



HIGH VOLUME LOW SPEED (HVLS) FANS



ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATERS



CUMMINS GENERATORS



WATER HEATERS



INSULATION

How Empower Works



Request a free consultation



Get suggestions from local pros



Schedule an installation



Third-party oversight

Time-of-day could mean **time to save!**

Our time-of-day program rewards San Isabel Electric members with a lower electric rate for shifting energy-intensive tasks, such as laundry, cooking and heating/cooling, away from peak hours. Peak hours are the few hours each day where demand for electricity is the highest.

SIEA's time-of-day program is only available to members who have installed electric storage heating equipment; licensed electric vehicle(s); or battery storage unit(s) approved by SIEA.

OFF-PEAK ELECTRICITY IS ABOUT 50% LESS THAN ON-PEAK ELECTRICITY

Members who are signed up for the TOD program pay:

On-peak: \$0.145/kilowatt hour

**Off-peak: \$0.076/kWh for the first 1,000 kWh
\$0.062/kWh after the first 1,000 kWh**

(Please see the illustrations below for off-peak and on-peak seasonal hours.)

Members on the TOD program also pay a \$30 grid access charge, year-round. The grid access charge for standard residential rates is \$20.

Members who are on the standard residential rate pay the same price for electricity, regardless of when it is used.

EXAMPLE: Let's say before you were on the TOD rate, you used an average 800 kWh during on-peak hours and about 200 kWh during off-peak hours. Your average monthly

electric bill, including the grid access charge, would be about \$165 per month.

800 @.145/kWh on-peak = \$116

200 @.145/kWh on-peak = \$29

Grid access fee = \$20

1,000 kWh total usage = \$165

Shifting 400 kWh to off-peak equals \$30 average monthly savings

After you enroll in the TOD program, if you shifted half of your electric usage from on-peak hours to off-peak hours you could save about 20%, or \$30, per month on your average electric bill.

400 kWh on-peak = \$58

600 kWh off-peak = \$45.60

Grid access fee = \$30

1,000 kWh = \$133.60

The more electric usage you shift to off-peak times, the more dramatic the savings are. Shifting 600 kWh to off-peak equals \$45 average monthly savings. If you can shift your electric usage to 80% during off-peak hours, you can reduce your average monthly electric bill by 27%, or \$45.20.

200 kWh on-peak = \$29

800 kWh off-peak = \$60.80

Grid access fee = \$30

1,000 kWh = \$119.80

TWO PRODUCTS THAT WORK WELL WITH TIME-OF-DAY PROGRAM

San Isabel Electric's time-of-day program works well with the following products. **The TOD program is only available to members who have installed electric storage heating equipment; licensed electric vehicle(s); battery storage unit(s); and all-electric homes approved by San Isabel Electric.**

Electric thermal storage heaters

Electric thermal storage heaters work by energizing electric heating elements within a core of bricks during the off-peak periods. The heater is programmed to charge or store heat only during the off-peak times when rates are lower. This heat is stored in the heater's brick core to be used when heat is needed, including the on-peak times of the day. ETS heaters operate on a thermostat. When the temperature drops below the thermostat's temperature setting, the thermostat sends a signal to the heater to discharge the stored heat.

Electric vehicle chargers

Residential member-owners who choose to charge their electric vehicles at home during off-peak hours can pay as little as the equivalent of \$0.59 per gallon of gasoline, depending on the amount of electricity used during the billing cycle. Member-owners choosing to charge their electric vehicle during on-peak hours pay the average equivalent of \$1.43 per gallon of gas, still considerably less than the going price per gallon of gasoline. Some charging stations allow a plugged-in car to delay charging until a programmed time, to ensure charging occurs only during off-peak times when it's most cost effective and still convenient.

To find more ways to save on your energy bill, visit siea.com/empower.

