



EVEN IN THE COLD, WE WORK HOT

No one likes power outages or even slight interruptions that cause clocks to blink. What causes this? Many things, including heavy snow, strong winds, birds dropping 4-foot branches on power lines, and even an occasional wind-blown trampoline flying 15 feet in the air.

On average, San Isabel Electric Association members, many of them with homes situated in very remote, rural areas, experience less than 2 hours of total power outages per year. That's right in line with the national average; keep in mind, the national average includes cities and towns that don't have our rural and mountainous characteristics and challenges. It's a testament to the resilience of our grid and the efficiency of SIEA's operation.

Linework is one of the most dangerous professions in the country — right up there with logging, piloting aircraft, mining and fighting fires. Despite the risks, every job on

this list is essential to our way of life.

Here's something you might not know: SIEA's lineworkers perform most grid maintenance when power lines are energized with more than 14,000 volts. It sounds dangerous — and it is. We could de-energize the grid to perform regular maintenance, but SIEA crews work lines "hot" so that you experience minimal service interruption.

Here at SIEA, our lineworkers undergo extensive safety training to perform hot work safely. This includes:

- Learning to (essentially) simulate a bird on wire
- Regular vehicle inspections to ensure our vehicles' insulating features are intact
- Frequent personal protective equipment inspections — insulated gloves, insulated sleeves and other gear
- A four-year, 7,360-hour apprenticeship for journeyman lineworker certification

Here's a couple more things you might not know: When we are up in a bucket truck wearing half-inch thick rubber gloves and sleeves, our linecrews feel the electricity buzzing through their gloves. And believe it or not, most lineworkers know more about trigonometry than you would ever guess. This allows them to anchor guy wires at the proper angle, for example.

The next time you have to reset your clock, know this: Our crews are out there in the rain, snow, heat, at night, on weekends, holidays, 24/7 trying their best to minimize your inconvenience. That's because, for us, it is all about you.

For more real-time outage information, please visit our outage map, accessible from our website at siea.com.

Never Approach a Lineworker

It's easy to like San Isabel Electric lineworkers. Some of you may see our linecrews out in the blowing snow, sloppy mud, freezing rain and blistering sun at all hours of the day and night. Sometimes our linecrews miss out on a holiday, or miss their kid's birthday party or sporting event to get your power back on. They absolutely deserve and appreciate a thank you. But please, never approach any of our field crews.

While there have been improvements in safety gear and grid technology, linework is still considered one of the most

dangerous trades. The most important thing for SIEA employees and their families is that they make it home safely at the end of the day.

Linework takes intense thought, focus and concentration to solve complex problems quickly and safely. If you want to thank a lineworker or any of our employees, drop a note in the mail, give us a call, shoot us an email or tag @SanIsabelElectric on social media.

Take Time to Unplug

Though this month marks the beginning of spring, southern Colorado is typically still cold and snowy throughout March. There aren't as many chances to get outside for activities as there are during warmer months. And unfortunately, many of us find ourselves indoors, spending too much time inside in front of screens.

Our screen habits and dependency have made us all very aware of how much we depend on electricity. When our devices are out of juice, it can be very frustrating. In addition to televisions, tablets and smartphones, there are a lot of other everyday things that we often take for granted that also use electricity: using the internet, refrigerating and cooking food, heating our homes and our water, opening garage doors and much, much more.

If you're looking for a screen-free activity and a chance to remind yourself and your family how important electricity is, take SIEA's **No Electricity Challenge**.

Here's how to play the No Electricity Challenge:

1. Switch off the main breaker to your home.
2. See how long you and your family can go without using any electricity.
3. Tell us how long you made it before you turned the electricity back on and tell us how you passed the time. Send an email to communications@siea.com, or mail a letter to 781 E. Industrial Blvd., Pueblo West, CO 81007. Share what you learned, what you missed the most, and what your favorite and least favorite parts of the game were.

Tips

If you're thinking you and your family can go a long time without electricity, here are a few tips that might help prolong the game:

- Get snacks and food together for your electricity-free time before you shut off the main breaker. Make microwave popcorn, put together a cheese and crackers plate, or make Energy Bites that you can keep in the refrigerator until you turn off the power.
- Limit the number of times you open your refrigerator to keep the food inside from spoiling.

Energy Bites

Servings: 20

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup raw oats
- 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup flaxseed meal
- 6 tablespoons mini chocolate chips

Instructions:

In medium mixing bowl, stir peanut butter, honey and vanilla extract until combined.

Add oats, coconut, flaxseed meal and chocolate chips. Mix until combined.

Shape into 1-inch balls. Store in airtight container in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Source: *Culinary.net*



Screen-Free Winter Activities:

- Bundle up and play outside
- Get out for a walk around your neighborhood or property
- Take a scenic drive
- Explore your town or a nearby place you've never visited
- Build a blanket fort with your table and chairs
- Play board games or card games
- Build a puzzle
- Play charades or Pictionary
- Clean the house and declutter
- Read a book, magazine or newspaper
- Find a worthy cause and volunteer your time
- Talk to your family or take some time to self-reflect. To get started, here are five questions to ask each other, or write down:
 1. When are you (or have been) most afraid?
 2. What was the happiest day of your life?
 3. If you could change one thing in the world, what would you change?
 4. What is the one thing you couldn't live without?
 5. What is the best thing about being ___ years old?



Please share about your time "unplugged."
Your story may be included in a future issue of *Colorado Country Life*.

Say YES to ETS!

Electric thermal storage heaters are 100% efficient heating units designed to provide low-cost heat, 24 hours a day. There are a lot of compelling reasons to say yes to electric thermal storage heating. Keep reading to learn about a few of them.

Get nearly half-price electricity for your whole household or business

One of the most compelling reasons to say “yes” to ETS is to reduce your heating bill. And, when you choose ETS heat, you also get nearly half-price electricity for all of your electricity needs 14 hours per day in the winter and eight hours per day in the summer.

By using electricity during San Isabel Electric Association’s Time-of-Day off-peak hours (the times during the day and night when use is lower and electricity is cheaper), ETS heaters provide cheaper heating than most other energy sources.

During off-peak hours, the ETS heater’s heating elements convert electricity to heat, which is stored in high-density ceramic bricks. The bricks are surrounded by high-efficiency insulation which allows them to hold great amounts of heat for long periods of time. A fan evenly and quietly distributes the heat to your home during higher cost, on-peak hours. Built-in thermostats allow you to easily maintain the desired temperature.

Another advantage of these systems is the fact that there is no combustion and thus no concerns about carbon monoxide or other combustion by-products. Non-combustion systems also require very little maintenance.

Escape fluctuating heating fuel costs

ETS heating is a low-cost, safe, reliable, comfortable option if you’re tired of the fluctuations in heating fuel costs. Electric thermal storage systems are highly versatile; can be sized to heat a room or multiple units; or can be installed to heat a whole house or business. They work well for retrofits, additions and new construction because they are small in size and easy to install.



GET PAID
\$100
FOR EVERY ELECTRIC
THERMAL STORAGE
REFERRAL THAT TURNS
INTO A COMPLETED
INSTALL!
Restrictions apply. Visit
siea.com/ets for info.

REFER
A FRIEND!

How do I get one?

Contact the energy experts at SIEA for a free analysis to see if electric thermal storage heating is a good fit. San Isabel Electric’s energy-efficiency program, Empower, can help members select the right products for their lifestyle based on their past energy consumption.

We started the Empower program because we know how hard it is to get a timely, reasonable bid for these types of upgrades in rural areas. If you choose to make energy-efficiency upgrades through the Empower program, we’ll help with scheduling permitting, installation, and follow-up calls. And we offer zero- and low-interest, short- and long-term financing options right on your SIEA bill.

Already said yes to ETS? Get paid to help loved ones stay warm and save money

San Isabel Electric now offers \$100 referral credits for new electric thermal storage installations. All you have to do is tell your friends and family how much you love your ETS system from SIEA and send them our way. For every new referral you send us that turns into a completed install, and is approved by the co-op, we will pay you \$100. Restrictions apply. Installation must be completed by December 31, 2023. The referral name must be provided before installation is complete.

More information about ETS heating and the referral program is available at siea.com/ets. Want to speak to an energy expert? Call 719-647-6250 or email empower@siea.com.

Want us to call you?

Scan this QR code and fill out our contact form. We’ll reach out to you soon.



GET THE MONEY YOU NEED FOR ENERGY-SAVING UPGRADES

San Isabel Electric Association is extending the offer of 0% financing for 12 months. This financing can be used for energy-efficiency upgrades. You must sign up before the end of 2023 and SIEA must be your electric utility.

Products & projects that can be financed:

- Water heaters — standard and heat pump
- Insulation
- Whole-house and attic fans
- Garage heaters
- Electric thermal storage (ETS) heaters
- A/C and furnace upgrades
- Generators
- High-volume, low-speed (HVLS) fans
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems
- Battery storage systems

Find more information about this program at siea.com/zerofor12.



ELECTRIC SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Kids, get out your art supplies!

Draw a poster that tells our members how you play and work safely around electricity. This poster should display a clear, creative and colorful picture of the theme: “How do you and your family stay safe at home when around electricity?” No matter what you draw, have fun! We can’t wait to see what you come up with. Cash prizes will be awarded in each division.

DIVISIONS:

1. Preschool & Kindergarten
2. 1st to 3rd grade
3. 4th & 5th grade

PRIZES:

Each division will be awarded three prizes (nine prizes total): three first-place prizes of \$25, three second-place prizes of \$15, and three third-place prizes of \$10.

RULES:

Posters must be on white, 8.5" by 11" paper.

- Posters must depict the theme, “How do you and your family stay safe at home when around electricity?”
- Print the child’s name, grade, school, and teacher’s name on the back of the poster.
- Only dependents of current SIEA members are eligible for this contest.

MORE INFORMATION:

Visit siea.com/homeelectricalsafety for a short video and more information.

Questions? Email communications@siea.com.

Mail entries to:

San Isabel Electric
Attn. Communications
781 E. Industrial Blvd.
Pueblo West, CO 81007

DEADLINE:

Posters must be dropped off or mailed to San Isabel Electric’s Pueblo West office and received no later than 5 p.m. on March 15.

WINNERS:

Winning posters will be featured on SIEA’s website and in the May edition of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

