

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Outlet

APRIL 2023



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Buena Vista, CO 81211-2013



STREET ADDRESS

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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc

Twitter: @SDCEA_Inc

Your community electric service provider.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

SDCEA's annual meeting will be held on **June 15, 2023** at Buena Vista High School. Details to follow.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

YOUR CO-OP NEWS



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Plan Ahead to Call Before You Dig

Digging without locating underground utilities — even the smallest digging projects — could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages or cause severe electrical shock. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811 or visit 811.org.

The “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint. So make sure to plan ahead and call in advance.

After 30 days from the original locate, your locate is no longer valid. You must call for a second locate.

What do the colors mean?

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

- Red | electric
- Orange | communications, telephone/CATV
- Blue | potable water
- Green | sewer/drainage
- Yellow | gas/petroleum pipe line
- Purple | reclaimed water
- White | premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that locators do not locate privately installed facilities.

If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.



Know How to Stay Safe If Your Car Crashes into a Power Pole

In traumatic situations, it may be instinctive to flee as soon as possible. A car accident is a good example of this. However, if you are in a car accident with a power line, the safest place is often inside the car.

When a car crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in a car accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help, and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop away with feet together. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.

For more information, visit safeelectricity.org.

SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES

SDCEA is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 2023. SDCEA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes in your project timeline.

REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment and more.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the Rebates tab.

OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

DO NOT email your outage information or post your outage information on social media. SDCEA cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to be sure we know you have an outage is for you to phone it in.



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023



WHY WE ARE EXPLORING A RATE CHANGE

Your primary source for all rate-related information at Sangre de Cristo Electric Association



WHY WE'RE EXPLORING RATE REDESIGN

For information on SDCEA rates, please visit sdceaadvisory.com.



Work Zone Awareness Week: Safety First

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17–21, 2023, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety; however, work zone safety should be observed 365 days a year to save lives.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone do not just endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or too close to a work truck can also put an elevated worker in danger by causing their raised bucket to move or sway.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in or near traffic lanes. Be alert to utility and other work zone crews for their safety and yours. Besides our crews, you might encounter road workers, other utility crews, tree trimmers or first responders working in or on the side of the road.

Colorado's move-over law requires drivers to change lanes away from stopped vehicles, including emergency responders, utility trucks, highway maintenance vehicles and construction vehicles. Do your part to keep both yourself and workers protected on the road.

The most recent data from the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse shows that 774 fatal crashes and 857 deaths occurred in work zone crashes in 2020. Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. In 2020, 102,000 work zone crashes occurred across the United States.

To help keep roadside crews safe:

- ✓ Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- ✓ Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- ✓ Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- ✓ Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- ✓ Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- ✓ Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup or eating while behind the wheel.

Remember: Slow down when approaching a work zone and move over for first responders and work crews. Do your part to help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.



DON'T BE FOOLED

SDCEA cautions consumers not to be fooled by impersonators who claim to be from SDCEA and threaten disconnection for lack of payment.

Area consumers have reported very aggressive collection calls demanding immediate credit card payment or purchase of a third-party credit card to avoid loss of service. The caller may demand something else entirely — like a payment of taxes. The calls may even appear on caller ID as a local call from SDCEA or Sangre de Cristo Electric. The callers are NOT affiliated with SDCEA and are attempting to talk victims out of their credit card or banking information. Consumer protection agencies caution that the scammers often target the elderly.

SDCEA asks our consumers that if they get a questionable phone call, to hang up and call SDCEA directly at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412 to see if there truly is an issue with the account in question.

When an account is past due, SDCEA customers receive a phone call, a written notice and are given time to settle their bills before any disconnect would take place.

SDCEA's Customer Service Department can be reached during regular business hours at 719-395-2412 or toll free at 844-395-2412 for clarification of any billing questions. SDCEA members may also review the status of their account at any time online by clicking the Sign-In button at the top of any page on our website at www.myelectric.coop.



TIP 1: Don't ever give out — or confirm — your personal or financial information to someone who calls you.

TIP 2: Never pay someone who calls out of the blue, even if the name or number on the caller ID looks legit.

TIP 3: Don't wire money or send money using a reloadable card.

TIP 4: Feeling pressured to act immediately? That's a sure sign of a scam. Hang up.

TIP 5: If you've received a call from a scammer, with or without fake caller ID information, you may report it to the FTC and the FCC.



HAVE A QUESTION about something to do with SDCEA?

The quickest way to get in touch is to give our office a call at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412. Our business office in Buena Vista is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on major holidays. Or send an email with your question to info@myelectric.coop.

Are YOU interested in how your electric cooperative is governed?



Do you have leadership qualities and want to make a difference? Consider running for a seat on the SDCEA Board of Directors. If you think this might be a good fit and a good opportunity for you, contact CEO Paul Erickson at 719-395-2412 or toll free at 844-395-2412 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you. Nomination petitions, candidate biographies and financial disclosure forms are due by **5 p.m. April 6, 2023.**

▶ Look for SDCEA Board of Directors candidate bios and Q&A information in April under the Governance section at myelectric.coop. If there is a contested election for SDCEA board of director seats, SDCEA plans to offer a vote by ballot or vote electronically option this year. Details to follow.