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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.



Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find 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. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18, 2023. National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason.

Laboring high in the air, wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job [*Kitzmillier Grazing Assn. 1021305800*].

Y-W Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

In the Y-W Electric service territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards [*Brenda Butcher 3035004802*].

Tuesday, April 18, Y-W Electric is celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Y-W Electric's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well.



TRENT LOUTENSOCK



BILLING CORNER

IRRIGATION BILLING

This is the time of year when our irrigation consumers are getting ready for the growing season. See below for a review of how the irrigation rate is billed.

Irrigation usage is billed for the calendar year with a declining rate. The peak kilowatt (demand) is the basis for calculating the kilowatt-hour costs. Each month, a kW reading is recorded and stored for comparison throughout the year. Please remember that this kW (demand) will reflect usage of all equipment turned on at one time. Multiple equipment running at the same time could increase your annual costs. An example would be grain bins connected to the same meter as the irrigation well [Rosa E Cordova 2041001020].

As a reminder, please be sure to post any warnings of chemical applications for the safety of our personnel.

If you have any questions about how your irrigation account is billed, please call our office at 1-800-660-2291 or in the Akron area at 303-345-2291. Have a safe spring.



REMINDER

If you experience an outage or electrical emergency anytime, day or night, contact Y-W Electric Association by calling the office at 970-345-2291. DO NOT report outages or electrical emergencies via email. Y-W cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to ensure we know you have an outage or electrical emergency is to phone it in.

Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the February 2023 issue:



Wieser Farms LP & Wieser Dennis
Rick Conner
Gregory Terrell

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans.

Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees.

To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Work Zone Awareness Week Sheds Light on Safety

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.

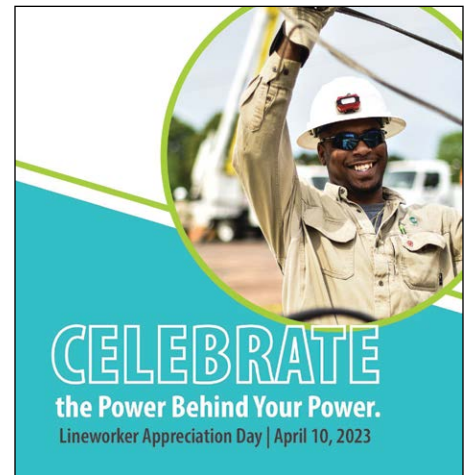
Colorado's move-over law requires drivers to change lanes away from stopped vehicles, including emergency responders, utility trucks, highway maintenance vehicles and construction vehicles. Do your part to keep both yourself and workers protected on the road.

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 [Glenn E Thim Jr 820811801].
- 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.



Safety Tip

The orange work zone sign is not a suggestion, it's the law. Slow down, move over, and use extra caution in work zones. Do your part to help everyone return home safely.



Safe
Electricity.org®

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



REAP WHAT YOU SOW: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity and Y-W Electric offer farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact is made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power line.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines [Sean & Mollie Houlihan 992909809].
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc, so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 911 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.



SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air, and that means more than just a change of seasons for farmers. Stay safe during the busy planting season.

-  **SHARE SAFETY TIPS:** Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards.
-  **LOOK AROUND:** Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting.
-  **TRANSPORT SAFELY:** Ensure equipment is compliant with agricultural road and travel safety rules.

- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- American Family Insurance advises to “Know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

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

Don't Drive Distracted

A significant percentage of accidents occur when a driver is distracted, which includes texting and driving. According to 2020 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data, cellphone use or texting while driving was a factor in:

- 13% of the distracted driving accidents that resulted in fatalities
- about 29,999 distracted driving injury crashes
- about 50,098 distraction accidents

In 2020, 396 people were killed in the United States as a direct result of accidents caused by texting and driving. Don't text and drive. Your life — and someone else's life — is worth the wait.

