

Fire Safety With Your Co-op

WORKING ALONGSIDE LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Here at Poudre Valley REA, safety is our cornerstone. We instill these principles into everything we do, while also ensuring that those around us know what to do in situations involving electricity. Whether a downed power line, damaged transformer, or other accident involving electricity, our crews understand the importance of safety and the steps required to ensure everyone can stay safe.

Part of our commitment to safety includes working with first responders to ensure they know what to do if they arrive at an accident and electricity is involved.

"It's really about building those relationships between departments," Kelly Streeb, PVREA Working Foreman and volunteer firefighter, said. "Knowing who to call, sharing incident action plans (IAP). It's incredibly beneficial."

When training first responders on electrical safety, we utilize an in-depth presentation, live demonstration, and a hot stick tester to showcase the steps they can take when arriving at an accident, fire, or other incident involving electricity. This provides first responders with an opportunity to use the hot stick tester to see if power is still traveling through power lines, learn safety steps around electricity, and learn who to call when dealing with an electrical fire or other dangerous situation involving electricity.

"We used it three times this past winter," Russ Kane, Fire Chief of Galeton Fire Protection District, said. "It gives

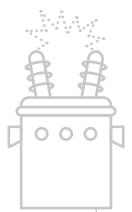
us actions we can take instead of doing nothing. Having intimate knowledge of step potential, for example, is incredibly helpful."

We're looking to further build out those relationships with local departments. Knowing that they can call upon us for assistance, utilize our training resources, and form partnerships to ensure that we can work together, whether it's an emergency or not.

"We want first responders to know we're always looking out for them," Steven Leenerts, PVREA Journeyman Lineman and volunteer firefighter, said. "The more we work together, the faster and safer things go."

If you or your organization would like to know more about receiving electrical safety training, reach out to us to learn more about our offerings.

Call us at 800.432.1012 or email communications@pvrea.coop.



REQUEST YOUR

Electrical Safety Demonstration

We offer free electrical safety demos as a service to our communities. As your local electric co-op, it's important we share our expertise with others to keep our communities safe around electricity.



Know a classroom or community group that could benefit from one of our safety demos? Call us or submit your request online. www.pvrea.coop/outages-safety/safety/electrical-safety-demos/



FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF



DARREN HEIN

PVREA member & Hein Home Solutions business owner

Darren Hein, owner/operator of Hein Home Solutions and Northern Colorado Sales Representative for Skylight Specialists.

Darren talked to us about how to increase the natural lighting, ventilation, temperature management, and energy efficiency of your home or business.

SKYLIGHTS & SUN TUNNELS

By the age of 60, we require 2-3 times more light to see, however the health benefits of natural lighting are important for people of all ages. Skylights decrease the need for electric lighting during the day. But it's important to consider how their placement and use could impact the amount of energy needed to heat and cool your home.

Sun tunnels are a way to bring in light, even at night with the addition of a Solar Night Light, without sacrificing insulation. Be sure to read this full article online for a deeper dive into how to best use skylights, sun tunnels, and more.

Solar-powered, venting skylights can open to act as a passive air conditioner to pull warm air up through the open skylight and pull cool, fresh air throughout the rest of your home. There's a "fresh-air function" that can automatically run periodically to open and release hot, trapped air. Darren explains that, "When using AC, you open up the skylight for about 15 minutes when the AC turns on. And instead of the AC working really hard to cool off all the hot air, it pushes it out of the house." Then it closes to keep the cool air in.

State-of-the-art skylights use Argon gas-filled glass panes to block potentially harmful ultraviolet rays, while allowing good light to enter your home. Built-in manual or solar-powered blinds with room-darkening and light-filtering options block heat from sunlight or provide softer, diffuse light when needed. Since skylights are installed on the roof,

they provide natural light while protecting privacy; ideal for areas facing toward neighbors or in bathrooms.

SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

The first thing Darren asks when he comes into a home is, "What is your goal here?" Whether it's increased lighting, better airflow, a more open sense of space, or other need, Darren asks the right questions to ultimately design the best solution.



"Our name is Hein Home Solutions because I offer the ideal solutions based on what homeowners need."

With 25 years of experience in roofing, framing, and lighting, he understands the small details that can impact your needs. Location, light tracking, roof type, and even the color of your interior walls or countertops all factor into determining the right solution. It's how Darren helps others live a more sustainable life by maximizing energy efficiency. The right system ensures you aren't wasting materials or paying for what you don't need. And long-term solutions pass efficiency and sustainability onto the next generation.

Darren left us with this: "I'm trying to save the world one skylight at a time."

Scan the QR Code to read our full article online or search "Darren Hein" in the News section of our website.



Contact **Darren Hein** for questions or new construction consultations at heinhomesolutions@gmail.com or call **970.689.0674**.

Get a quote from the **Northern Office of Skylight Specialists** at www.skylightspecialist.com or call **970.988.3622**.

SAFETY CORNER

We Need Your Help to Stay Safe



By reporting issues to your cooperative, you can help us maintain our system and keep you and your family, your neighbors, and our community safe around electricity.



NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE REQUEST

When you're out for an early morning or evening stroll, keep an eye out for damage to padmount transformers, overhead electrical equipment, or other issues on our electrical system.

Submit non-emergency service requests online in our Maintenance section of our website or scan the QR Code above. You can even include a photo!



TREE TRIMMING REQUEST

Vegetation can creep into our right-of-way despite our best efforts to keep limbs and branches at bay. If you notice trees, bushes, or even shrubs encroaching on our distribution lines, let us know so we can keep power flowing safely and reliably.

Submit your vegetation management request online by scanning the QR code above, or navigate to our new Maintenance section of our website.

Remember to contact us if you are without electricity or there is an immediate safety concern. Call 800.432.1012.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day

Thank you to all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of country, and to their friends and family who carry their torch of freedom and peace.



Member Credits

What does “your not-for-profit electric cooperative” mean? Well, any margins are returned to our membership in the form of member credits. And these really add up: We’ve returned over \$35 million to members in the last 10 years.



In 2022, your co-op paid \$2 million in member credits to members who received service from PVREA for the years 1994, 2005, and 2021, or any combination of those years. In September 2022, current members during the years mentioned above received their credits on their

September bill statement or received a check in the mail. If you were a previous member and had built up at least \$50 worth of credit, your member credit check would have been mailed to you.

Every year there are some checks returned to us because the Post Office could not deliver for a variety of reasons. We have published a list of unclaimed member credits online at www.pvrea.coop/member-credits. If you see your name, or the name of someone you know, contact us at **800.432.1012**.



Keep us updated on changes in your contact information by contacting us during business hours or by scanning the QR code.

The Value of Board Leadership & Training

As your electric co-op, we are guided by an elected Board of Directors who represent you, our members, and their best interests.



Being a member of your co-op’s Board is an important position, and it takes substantial time, effort in education, and training. Your directors have demonstrated their desire to advance their experience and leadership by earning credentials through extensive training and education.

We are proud to announce Steve Anderson has successfully completed the Director Gold Credential Program by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Trainings

like this are specifically designed to help electric co-op directors understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up to date on the key issues and trends in our industry, and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric co-ops now and into the future.

Please join us in congratulating Steve!



The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system’s ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes, and exterior doors.

Source: energy.gov

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

MAY 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

