



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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## LET'S POWER SAFETY



When doing DIY projects, keep safety in mind. Always turn off electricity to the circuit before you install that nice, new appliance.

*We value our customers.  
We value you.*

www.erppd.com  
800-675-2185



May is National Electrical Safety Month, so let's power safety with DIY projects this month.

Do-it-yourself (DIY) projects are a great way to save money. Many electrical projects fall into the DIY category. Projects like installing ceiling fans, lighting fixtures or appliances are fairly easy and do not require a large investment in tools. Before you begin your project, here are a few DIY tips to keep you S-A-F-E.

**Know your limitations.** The first rule of DIY safety is this: don't do it yourself if you are not qualified for the job. Unless you are familiar with the basics of electrical wiring, turn electrical projects over to a licensed electrician.

**Turn off the power.** Even 120 volts

can be deadly. Always turn off the power to the circuit you will be working on. To do this, locate your main service panel and turn off the circuit breaker.

**Remember, there are wires behind those walls.** Even if you're not working on an electrical project, you need to keep electrical safety in mind. Before you cut or drill into a wall or ceiling, be conscious of how deep you are cutting or drilling to avoid hitting wires.

**Use GFCI protectors** if you are going to be using extension cords. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) are devices designed to protect you from electrical shock. When using extension cords, use a GFCI outlet or a short extension cord with a built-in GFCI protector.

**Avoid working where water is present.** Do not work on electri-

cal systems in wet locations. And never work on electrical systems in the rain.

At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, your safety is our top priority. Be sure to follow these tips and guidelines to make sure your next project ends with a satisfied smile!



**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District**  
will be closed  
**Monday, May 31**  
In observance of  
**Memorial Day**



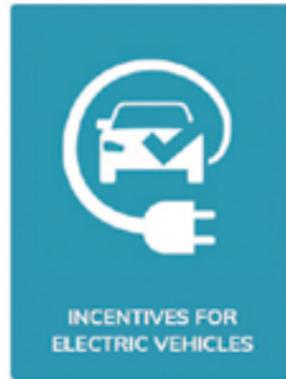
# NEW LOOK FOR WEBPAGE

Check out the new and improved web page for the EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives at erppd.com under the energy tab. New graphics and easy to navigate pages help you to find what you are looking for. Energy efficiency helps you save money. Call Brian at 800-675-2185 or fill out the information form on the website for more information.

**ENERGYWISE**  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



ABOUT ENERGYWISE ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS TOOLS & RESOURCES CONTACT US



We offer a wide range of EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives and rebates designed to help you **SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY**, and contribute to a more sustainable future for all Nebraskans.



A \$30 EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentive is available to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned up, regardless of what type or age of cooling system it is (air conditioner, air or water source heat pump). Check out the website or call Brian at 800-675-2185 for more information.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



# IRRIGATION REMINDERS

Irrigation season is upon us! Here are some great tips for irrigators as the irrigation season starts. ERPPD wants to partner with you to make sure you have the most productive irrigation season ever!

Here are some tips to keep your irrigation system running efficiently all summer long:

- **Check Fuses:** Perform a system check before the irrigation season begins to make sure you have power. There may be fuses that need replaced.
  - **Motor Savers:** Have your electrician install a motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors detect a blink on only one phase, which can allow the motor to continue to operate on two phases which may result in motor damage. A motor saver monitors all three phases and shuts down the system if any one of the phases blinks.
  - **Power Factor Corrective Capacitors:** Capacitors installed at the pump panel will lead to several important customer benefits, such as:
    - Guarding against low voltages on startup,
    - Assisting in keeping your system's voltage at a proper level while running,
    - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor,
    - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts,
    - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment,
    - Reducing the demand (measured horsepower) of your well,
    - Reducing consumption of kilowatt-hours by utilizing more efficient practices,
    - Maximizing the output of the electricity purchased.
  - **Autostart:** An autostart component installed on your system can maximize the amount of pumping by automatically starting your system following a period of control, or following a blink on the electrical system.
  - **Text or E-mail Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or e-mail when the radio signal has been sent to control your individual well. Another notification will be sent when the radio signal has been sent to restore the individual system at the end of the control period.
- If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Brian Suckstorf. You can also find valuable energy information by visiting our website ([www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)) and clicking on the Energy tab or the Irrigation tab.



**ENERGYWISE<sup>SM</sup>**  
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Again this year, there is a \$500 incentive for irrigators to replace all of an irrigations system's existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles, and regulators on qualified systems.

To qualify, the system must be a minimum of four (4) sections in length with water supplied by an all-electric pumping system. The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must be at least five (5) years old. For verification, a copy of the pivot's most-recent sprinkler/nozzle report (usually kept inside the pivot control panel) must be provided with a completed application and qualifying proof-of-purchase documentation.

You will want to check out all the energy savings incentives for agriculture on the ERPPD website.

Call 800-675-2185 and ask for Brian Suckstorf for more information on the incentive or go to erppd.com and click on the EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> button.

# POLE INSPECTIONS/SPRAYING

Each year as part of the routine maintenance of the electrical system that helps keeps you safe and your electricity reliable, is our pole testing and vegetation management programs.

## Pole Testing



Sundance Power Pole Inspections (Sundance PPI), out of Colorado, will be doing pole inspections. Pole inspections

consist of visually examining the pole, doing a sound test by hitting it with a hammer and digging out the pole to see if there is decay underground. Poles that show signs of advanced decay are marked for

removal, before mother nature causes an outage. This keeps Elkhorn's reliability at 99%.

Pole testing will be conducted off of subs 15 and 16 starting at the end of May/early June. Sub 15 is north of Newman Grove. Sub 16 serves the area north of Hardar, around the city of Pierce, and north of Meadow Grove.

Sundance inspectors will be identifiable with reflective vests and the Sundance logo (pictured right).

## Vegetation Management

Vegetation management also helps with safety and reliability.

Wilson Tree Service out of Norfolk has been contracted to spray trees and vegetation in the right of ways in the western part of the



district - Ranges 7-10.

If you have questions about our pole testing or vegetation management programs please call the office at (800) 675-2185.

## New Metering System Approved

At a recent board meeting directors approved a bid for a new Radio Frequency (RF) Mesh Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for Elkhorn.

As with most electronic equipment in business, advances in technology, efficiencies and the need to keep current, affect decisions of when to improve or replace existing equipment, which is the case with Elkhorn investing in a new AMI system at this time.

The metering system currently in use was installed in 2009-2010. At that time, the system was state-of-the-art technology. It was projected that it would have a life span of about 10 years. Since this was an anticipated expense, it is

considered in the budget and does not mean a change in rates for this project.

The new system has technological advances that will allow us to better monitor the system, manage blinks and outages and communicate with customers.

The mesh network allows the system to communicate even in major outages when there is damage to poles and wires and circuits are rerouted to get power back on sooner.

The new system will also allow for adaptation to upgrades like outage management software, that will allow us to communicate outages in real time.

Installation of the new system is expected to start later this year.



## Cody Conrady Story

*Pictured above is Cody Conrady and his wife Bailey.*

*A day in May changed their lives forever, when sprayer tips made contact with overhead power lines and Cody's body was a conduit for 7,400 volts of electricity. You can see his story on the ERPPD website and Facebook page. (Source: SafeElectricity.com)*

**Look up and out for power lines this planting season.**

*Stickers and window decals are available as reminders. They are available at most ag equipment dealers and at the ERPPD office or call 800.675.2185 to get yours.*