



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2022

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 31, Number 5

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

There is a lot going on at Elkhorn this spring with many new irrigation services being built and other work plan projects. Routine maintenance like pole testing and vegetation management will also take place as well as continued progress on the new AMI system.

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 dig-

ging around 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 helps keep Elkhorn's reliability at 99+%.

Sundance inspectors will be identifiable with reflective vests and the Sundance logo (pictured above and left). The



inspectors move from pole to pole using 4-wheelers and trucks. Please be aware of them and slow down if you need to pass them.

Pole testing will be conducted in the western part of the district starting at the end of May/early June. They will be working southwest of Clearwater and southwest of Elgin in Ranges 25, 8; 24, 8-10; and 23, 10.

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 eastern part of the District ranges; 1 E in Stanton County and 1-3 in Madison County.

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

New AMI System

As reported in the March *Wire*, a new mesh Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is currently being installed.

Since that report, the backbone or foundation of the system installation has begun. In the top picture to the right, Chris Tillotson is installing a router. The router is circled in red below. This hardware is part of the information collection system.

Upgrading residential meters

should begin toward the end of May and continue through the rest of the year.

The upgrading of the system is helping us to update our technology, which in turn helps you through enhanced service, like data driven decision making for efficiencies that help us control costs and an outage management program in the future.

All of these activities help us to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective, electricity.



~Photo credit: Patrick Hintz

SPRING PLANTING SAFETY

A DAY IN MAY



It was an average day in May — one that started like any other, when Cody Conrady was at work for an ag fertilizer company.

He was an assistant manager, and it was his next-to-last day on the job. They were understaffed that day, and Cody was filling in wherever he was needed.

He jumped in the truck to try and get ahead of the sprayer. Once the sprayer was in position, he hopped out to fill the tank with fertilizer.

He and his coworker inside the cab were unaware that the sprayer boom had either made contact or gotten too close to a power line.

7,400 volts of electricity traveled through the boom and electrified the equipment and ground where Cody was standing. Unfortunately, the unyielding stray voltage considered Cody's body as part of its electrical path to ground.

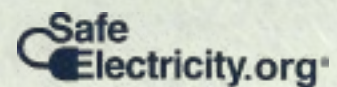
Since that day, Cody and Bailey began a tough road of recovery, together. For him, it was true grit, determination and living the ups and downs that come with this type of recovery. For her, it was emotional strength and fortitude — witnessing Cody's setbacks and victories and supporting him through them all.

Cody took his first steps as part of his recovery four months later — days before their September wedding.

Cody and Bailey share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety.

Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant.

Learn more at:



Look up and out for power lines this planting season. You can watch a video about Cody's story on the ERPPD website and Facebook page. (Source: SafeElectricity.com)

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.

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 three-phase motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors monitor a single phase allowing continued operation during potentially damaging conditions on the remaining phases.
- **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
 - Helping maintain your system's voltage at a proper level while running
 - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts
 - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor
 - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment
 - Reducing demand (measured horsepower) billed on your well
 - Reducing kilowatt-hours billed by improved efficiency 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, a blink or other power disruption 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) and clicking on the "Energy" or "Irrigation" tabs at the top of the page.



ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Again this year, there is a \$500 incentive for irrigators to replace all of an irrigation 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 EnergyWiseSM button.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

PLUG
INTO
SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority
this month, and every month.

Many electrocutions and home fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and adhering to safe practices.

Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, electrical safety should be a top priority in your home. Awareness of electrical hazards is the key to reducing the number of electrically-related home fires, injuries and deaths that occur every year.

A great resource for electrical safety in your home is the Electrical Safety Foundation. Visit their website www.esfi.org for extensive electrical safety information.

#THANKALINEMAN



Pictured above sporting their new lineman caps received on April 11, for Lineman Appreciation Day are back row left to right: Dominic Smedra, Jim Wennekamp, Jason Lyon, Jeremy Holecek, John Paul, Paul Lichty and Garland Goracke. Front row: Tyler Lamoree, Dan Belt, Blake Papik, Brian Hain and Patrick Hintz. Not pictured: Mark Ahlers, Eric Scranton, Jared Sucksdorf and Chris Tillotson.



Pictured above are left to right: Travis Wiebelhaus, Chris Bentley, Jeff Kerkman, Andy Starman, Ryan Kittelson, Grady Bellingtier, Kyle Kester and Kelly Nickels.

Customer Survey

We will be mailing out a customer survey to a randomly selected group of customers in June.

In order to serve you better, we would like to hear from you about what we are doing well and what could use some improvement.

Please be looking for more information in the June *Wire*!



**Elkhorn Rural Public
Power District**
will be closed
Monday, May 30
In observance of
Memorial Day