

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



From the GM - Mark Johnson

At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, safety is a core value that is present in everything we do. Our commitment starts with ensuring our employees return home safely each day, but it extends far beyond that. We are dedicated to promoting electrical safety throughout our communities, helping to protect our neighbors, customers, and the communities we serve.

May is Electrical Safety Month, making it the perfect time to reinforce the importance of staying safe around electricity. One of the most impactful ways we promote safety is through education and outreach. Each year, our team visits schools, community events, and local organizations to share crucial

electrical safety information. Our high-voltage demonstration trailer provides a hands-on learning experience, helping farmers, students, and community members understand the dangers of electricity and how to stay safe around power lines. If your school or organization is interested in scheduling a demonstration, we encourage you to reach out to our office.

We've also developed a variety of materials to raise awareness about electrical hazards. Simple reminders, like the importance of staying away from downed power lines or looking up and out before operating large equipment, can prevent serious accidents. Our note cards, window decals, and stickers, pictured below, for your cars, farm equipment, and ladders, are available at our office and distributed through local businesses. They help reinforce these important

safety messages.

In addition to educating the public, we work closely with local first responders to enhance safety during emergencies. Many of our employees serve as volunteer firefighters and EMTs, bringing firsthand knowledge of electrical hazards to their roles.

When storms or accidents cause damage to power lines, we coordinate closely with emergency crews to ensure a safe and effective response. Our goal is always to protect the public while restoring power as quickly and safely as possible.

As your local public power provider, we take our responsibility to the community seriously. We appreciate the trust you place in us and remain committed to keeping our employees, customers, and communities safe. Thank you for making electrical safety a priority—not just in May, but every day.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

If you are in an accident with a downed power line:

STAY
Do not leave the vehicle and warn others to stay away.

CALL
Call 911, have them notify the appropriate utilities.

WAIT
Do not exit the vehicle until a utility professional says it's all clear.

If you must leave the vehicle due to an emergency, exit, touch the ground, and the vehicle at the same time.

Jump clear of the vehicle and keep as much distance as you can from the downed power lines.

ERPPD

www.erppd.com

800-675-2185

**ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW:
HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY!**

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and connections to be live and dangerous.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without touching down the drive shaft and tires, leave at least 40 ft. behind safety.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to being contacted or in immediate danger, DO NOT call. Call the help and wait approximately 10-15 minutes.

NEW LOOK TO THE ERPPD WEBSITE

**CHECK OUT
OUR NEW
WEBSITE!**



We're excited to announce a refresh of our website, designed with our customers in mind. While all the great content you rely on is still available, we've added several new features to make your experience even better.

Our updated home page now includes quick links to the information you access most—like bill pay, outage map, load control status, and contact information—so you can find what you need faster than ever. Navigation has been stream-

lined to ensure a smoother, more intuitive user journey whether you're using a desktop or mobile device.

We've also added a dynamic news section to keep you informed with the latest updates, energy tips and savings.

Whether you're looking for irrigation updates, ideas on how to save on your electric bill, how to be safe around high voltage electric lines, or applying for community development funds, everything is just a

click away.

Our goal is to make staying connected easier and more convenient. This refresh is just one more way we're working to provide top-tier service and clear communication with the customers we serve.

Explore the new site today and see how we're powering up the digital experience while continuing to deliver the reliable information you trust.



MUTUAL AID GIVEN IN MARCH

On March 19, a day before the first official day of spring, Mother Nature let loose with a winter storm with howling winds, white out conditions, and cold.

As electric utility personnel, you dread seeing the sights, pictured top to the right, that greeted many districts in central and eastern Nebraska.

ERPPD started that day with just under 3,000 services offline. Luckily, all but about 250 services were back on within two hours. Those last 250 took the rest of the day, due to broken poles and down wire, but all the residential services were back on by early evening.

That was not the case for our neighbors to the south. Cornhusker Public Power, headquartered in Columbus, Neb., still had thousands of services out and due to the blizzard conditions could not have crews out safely to start repairs until later in the day.

Because we are public power, we are able to work with and share resources with other districts in weather events such as this one. We sent eight line techs, pictured middle right, left to right, Grady Bellingtier, Dawson Kaup, Carter Lammers, Travis Wiebelhaus, Kyle Kester, Dominic Smedra, Quinton Ries and Patrick Hintz. They worked two long days at Cornhusker PPD and they were able to help restore power to all CPPD customers.

Two days later, we sent six line techs to Perennial Public Power District, headquartered in York, Neb., they are pictured right heading out of Battle Creek. Chris Bentley, Kyle Kester, Carter Lammers, Quinton Ries, Dominic Smedra and Jared Suckstorf answered that call. They worked in Perennial PPD's district for five days. Pictured bottom right, Dominic Smedra and Carter Lam-



mers get dinner in the field. All their customers were restored with power 10 days after the storm. They had approximately 1,000 poles damaged in the storm and as of the writing of this article, they still have a long way to go to repair their system. We are happy to answer the call to help out our neighbors and proud to be public power in the great state of Nebraska.



OPERATION NEWS

New Apprentice:



Spencer Albers joins ERPPD on Monday, May 12, as our newest apprentice line tech.

He is a

recent graduate of the Northeast Community College Utility Line program.

Spencer started his ERPPD internship last summer at the Neligh outpost, then finished it in Battle Creek. He has worked Fridays and holidays since October 2023.

As a dependable, dedicated team member, we are excited to welcome him to ERPPD!

Summer Intern:



Joe Butterfield is from Stanton and is in his first year of Utility Line

School at Northeast Community College.

He will intern in Battle Creek. Joe spent a summer helping out at Stanton County PPD, so he is no stranger to utility line work.

He likes to work with his hands and tinker with cars and trucks. He has coached youth basketball and has officiated for local youth football and basketball.

Summer Intern:



Dayton Vanosdall is from Ord, and in his first year of Utility Line School at Northeast Community

College.

He will complete his internship at the Neligh outpost. Dayton worked two summers with the City of Ord on their maintenance crew and got a lot of good experience.


Dayton graduated from Ord High School where he played football, track, and baseball. For football, they were state champions in 2020.

Be on the Look Out for Right of Way (ROW) Spraying

Starting as soon as trees start budding, and weather conditions permit, Wilson Tree Service out of Norfolk will spray trees and vegetation in the right of ways in the eastern part of the ERPPD district in ranges 1, 2, and 3. They will continue spraying the ROWs throughout the summer.

Spraying trees and vegetation in the ROW keeps the lines free from potential hazards and maintains reliability to our customers. You can do your part for reliability, by keeping the ROW clear, and reporting trees in the line.

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

**206 N 4TH ST
PO Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**

Office Hours: M - F
8:00AM - 4:30 PM



General Manager:
Mark Johnson
CFO/Office Manager:
Carmen Christensen
Operations Manager:
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:




Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185

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