



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2026

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 35, Number 5

WE LIVE WHERE WE WORK



From the GM - Mark Johnson

One of the greatest strengths of public power is the connection between the

people who provide the service and the communities they serve. At ERPPD, that connection is personal. Our employees don't just work here - they live here, raise their families here, and take pride in supporting their neighbors every day.

That commitment extends far beyond keeping the lights on. Across our organization, employees are actively involved in their communities. Many on their own time, coach youth sports, volunteer in local schools, serve on community boards, or serve in churches and civic organizations. Our employees contribute to helping the small towns we call home be better places to live and work.

Several of our employees also serve on their local volunteer fire and rescue departments as firefighters and/or EMTs. Journeyman Lineworkers Chris Bentley, Dominic Smedra and Chris Tillotson; Foreman, Jason Lyon; Meter Tech, Brad Doffin; Warehouse Assistant/Locator, Brian Hain; Field Service Tech, Bryan Hohnholt;

and Energy Services Rep., Brian Suckstorf; all play vital roles in local emergency response. Whether it's responding to a medical call, a vehicle accident, or a structure fire, these individuals are often among the first to step forward when their communities need help.

These roles require significant dedication, ongoing training, long hours, and the willingness to respond at any time. Many of

these calls come during evenings, weekends, or even in the middle of the workday. Balancing those responsibilities alongside their roles at ERPPD speaks to their commitment not only as employees, but as neighbors and community members.

That dedication was especially evident during the recent wildfires across Nebraska and surrounding areas. **Continued on page 2**



Image courtesy of Bryan Hohnholt, volunteer fire fighter with the Albion Rural Fire District. Bryan helped to contain the Cottonwood fire.

WE LIVE WHERE WE WORK CONT'D.

As dry conditions and high winds created dangerous situations, Bryan Hohnholt and Chris Tillotson answered the call to assist with wild-fire response efforts out west. Their willingness to leave home and support other communities during a time of need is a powerful example of the service mindset that runs deep within our organization.

“We live where we work” is more than just a phrase, it’s a reflection of who we are. It means we care deeply about our communities because they are our communities. It means when challenges arise, whether it’s restoring power after a storm or responding to an emergency in the community, you’re likely to see a familiar face ready to help.

We are grateful for the dedication of our employees and proud of the difference they make every day both on the job and in the communities they call home.

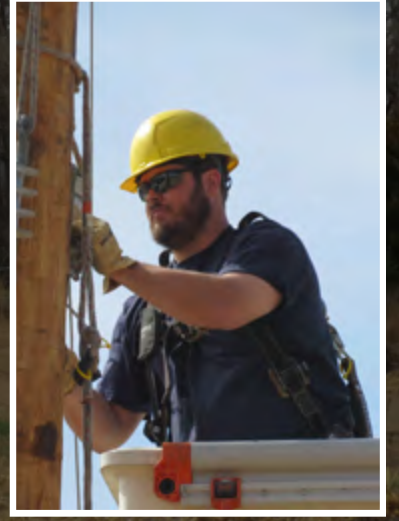
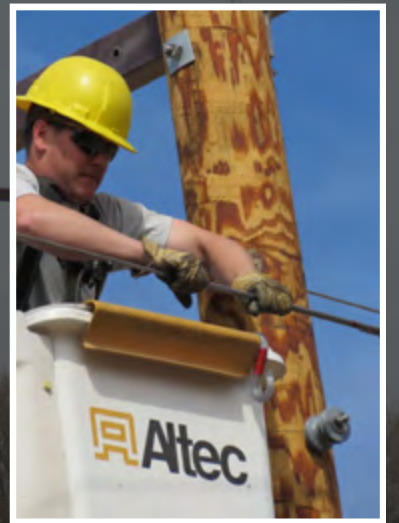


Image courtesy of Bryan Hohnholt. Bryan and Chris Tillotson, volunteer fire fighters, responded to the call on March 12, to help contain the Cottonwood fire near Brady, NE.

May is **ELECTRICAL** Safety Month

<p>WATER and ELECTRICITY are a dangerous combination.</p>	<p>LIGHT BULBS should match the RECOMMENDED WATTAGE for all fixtures.</p>	<p>EXTENSION CORDS should only be used as TEMPORARY solutions.</p>	<p>AVOID OVERLOADING electrical circuits.</p>
--	---	--	--

IRRIGATION LINE BUILD



With the warm, dry spring conditions, irrigation season has arrived early and our crews have been hard at work across the district.

Pictured above are crews stringing a three-quarter mile line build north of Neligh.

Crews are scheduled to install 68 new irrigation services and build approximately 11.5 miles of line for irrigation throughout the system this year.

Thanks to the teamwork and dedication of our line crews, projects are moving forward safely and efficiently.

For ERPPD, irrigation has been a significant area of growth in our footprint with 367 services installed in the last five years.

Partnering with our customers to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity is what makes this work so rewarding.

Pictured Above: ERPPD crews constructing a three-quarter-mile line north of Neligh.

- *Top left: Apprentice Quinton Ries tying the line in.*
- *Top right: Apprentice Zane Stoike installs armor rod on the wire.*
- *Bottom row (left to right): Journeyman Grady Bellingtier, Jeremy Holecek, and Jared Suckstorf, along with Apprentice Dawson Kaup, guide the wire off the spools as it is pulled up to the poles. Line techs in bucket trucks place the wire on the poles, and Journeyman Chris Bentley prepares the pole for the wire.*

OPERATION NEWS

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 middle part of the ERPPD district in ranges 4, 5, and 6. 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.

New Apprentice:

Aiden Norman from Fullerton, Neb. was hired as an apprentice line tech.



Aiden graduated from Northeast Community College's Utility Line program this May.

He interned with Loup Public Power District in Albion, Neb.

Aiden will be located out of Battle Creek.

Summer Intern:

Owen Lingen, was hired as an intern with the Battle Creek crew.



Owen is a student at Northeast Community College's Utility Line program.

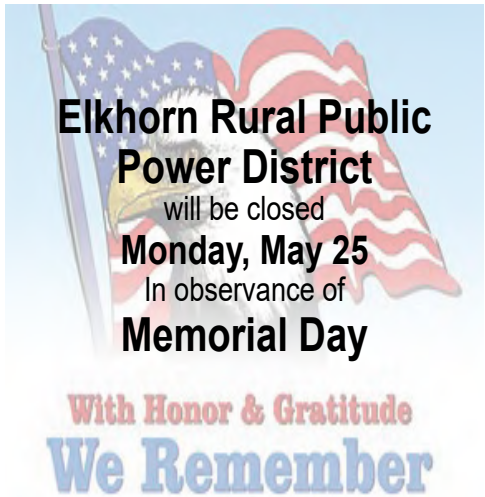
Owen is from Lincoln, Neb.

He is an Eagle Scout and ran cross country in high school.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov




**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

Board of Directors

Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

Subdivision III

- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefler, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President