



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

November 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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ERPPD MISSION PART II- RELIABILITY

From the GM, Mark Johnson

For Part II of highlighting Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's mission statement - ERPPD is dedicated to providing SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers - we are looking at the RELIABLE aspect of the mission statement.

November is the month of Thanksgiving - the holiday reflecting on the things we are thankful for. As the days grow shorter and colder, I think we can all agree that we are thankful for the energy that lights and heats our homes and businesses.

From the board to the staff, we are diligent in making sure that when you flip the light switch, set your thermostat, turn on your oven or plug in your electronic device, there is power.

There are many things that we do to provide reliable electricity to your home or business.

Having a well-trained, dedicated staff to run the organization is key. We have recruited and retained some of the best and brightest staff around. Each employee plays a crucial role in helping design, build and maintain a reliable system.

A reliable distribution system is designed and built with all the components needed to provide electricity to your home



Pictured left: NECC Utility Line students tour a new substation. Our partnership with NECC helps us with employing great staff, which in turn helps us with our mission to have reliable service.

or business, every hour of every day, including the time of highest demand. For us, the peak demand happens during hot summer days when irrigators and air conditioners are running. That means the system is designed well with transformers, poles and wires rightsized to consistently provide power, no matter if the load is 100 MW or 20 MW.

In addition to our customers' electrical needs, the system is also built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cyber security threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

Even with the best built system, maintenance is critical to identifying issues before there is an outage. This is done

through programs like tree cutting, vegetation management, pole testing and line inspections.

Further, we plan for upgrades and future growth to the system through yearly work plans, the 10-year sub-

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ERPPD Offices
will be closed
Friday, November 10,
to observe Veterans Day and
Thursday, November 23 through
Friday November 24 to observe
Thanksgiving.

ERPPD MISSION - CONTINUED

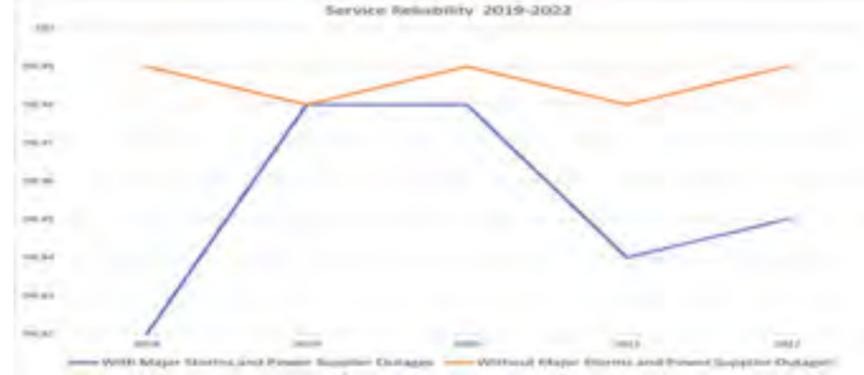
transmission plan, and FEMA hazard mitigation projects, to name a few.

One recent upgrade for the system is the board approved Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This updates the technology of the system and will enable us to monitor the system for blinks and outages to where, eventually, we will know you are out of power before you do!

All this to say that we have a 99.95% reliability rate - as you can see by the graph above. Without major storms, we have 99.99% service reliability.

There are other components to our reliability. Namely, our wholesale supplier of energy - Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) - and “the grid” as a whole, which is governed in part by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The SPP is one of nine Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) across the U.S. The SPP helps to coordinate energy generation with consumption of energy in its region. We learned in February 2021, during the polar vortex, that the grid is very interconnected. [You can read more about the role of the SPP and its relation to ERPPD reliability in the April 2021 issue of the *Wire* at www.erppd.com.] NPPD along with the SPP helps to ensure that the grid stays reliable.

The grid as a whole is also governed by political entities. We work with our state and national associations through grassroots outreach to make sure our voices are heard by our representatives



- especially when reliability of electricity to our customers could be impacted.

While not all of what happens with “the grid” is within our control, we have an excellent power supplier.

Our wholesale supplier provides a reliable mix of generation from coal, nuclear and hydro, as base load (always running) generation to dispatchable (intermittent) generation like wind and solar.

Nebraska was also recently named #1 in Power Grid Reliability in a survey by US News and World report based

on the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) data.

The EIA measures the number of minutes of power outages each customer experiences on average every year. The national average for power interruptions in 2021 (closest year with data available) was seven hours. ERPPD’s average during a 5-year time frame was 4 hours or less.

Our staff and board take great pride in the reliability of our system. We will continue to design, build, and maintain a reliable distribution system while advocating for you, our customers, in Lincoln and Washington.



Pictured above: Crews work on a line build project.

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
November 2023*

SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there’s a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in 5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure

cords aren’t frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There’s nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it’s important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup

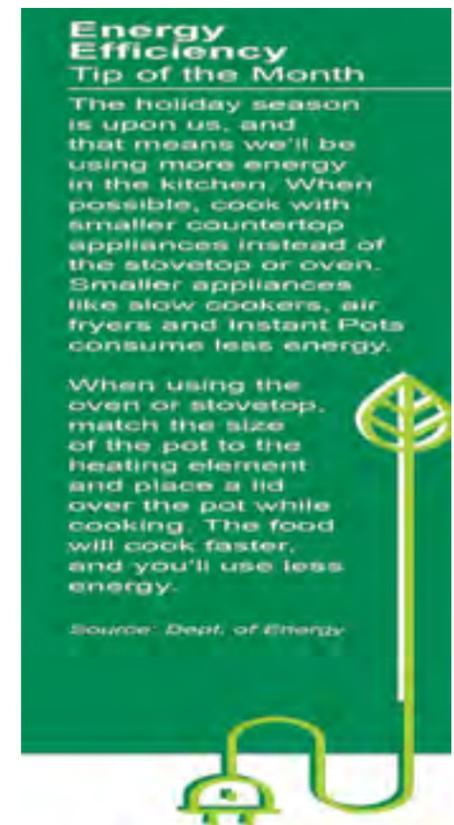
becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that’s cooking on the stove top unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

ERPPD wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season.



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SAFETY MESSAGE

Electrical safety for our customers is as much a priority as it is for our staff. We do many things to help you keep electrical safety top of mind.

To the right are pictures of our safety demo trailer that was taken to Lutheran High Northeast for the ag classes.

Several of our line techs provided instruction of what can happen when something comes in contact with a high voltage power line.

*Tires with steel bands that can conduct electricity (top)

*A hot dog (middle left) or pickle that represents a human hand, is cooked from the inside out when it comes in contact.

The students were able to try on the personal protective equipment (PPE) (middle right) that is needed to do a line tech job, as well as what happens when that equipment is faulty.

The lower graphic shows what to do if you are in an accident with a power line. These window decals are available at the ERPPD office, stop in or call 800-675-2185 to get yours.

Pictured below is Stacie Young, customer service rep, with representatives from NPPD, US92 and the Madison HS FFA at an “Elevator Tailgater” sponsored by our wholesale supplier, NPPD.

The Elevator Tailgater is another way that we get our safety message out to farmers during harvest season.

Please remember to Look Up and Out for power lines - it could save your life.



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

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and transmission. No hot tag and disassembly.

1800-675-2185

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 bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 80 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, shut down if it is in operation, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby. **DO NOT** to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not touch any part of your body or clothes touch the ground from the moment you get clear.
2. Lie flat with feet together and hands away from your body to minimize the path of current through your body.
3. Stay down until you are at least 80 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure you are at least 80 ft. from the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your friends reach you. Otherwise it is safe.

