

ALL PUBLIC POWER - UNIQUE TO NE

Nebraska is a unique state in many ways. We have the only Unicameral in the Union, the largest aquifer, most miles of rivers, largest railroad classification complex in the world, largest jungle under roof and the 911 emergency system was developed in Lincoln.

We are the home of Dorothy Lynch Dressing, the Reuben Sandwich, Kool-Aid and the Runza.

Nebraska has the largest Kolache Festival in the world, largest hand planted forest, and the largest porch swing; located in Hebron, NE that can seat 25 adults. *(Source: 50states.com/Nebraska Facts and Trivia)*

What else is unique about Nebraska? We are an all public power state.



What does that mean? All of our electrical generation and distribution is owned either by the people (state/municipality) or by the members of electrical coops. There are no investor owned utilities in Nebraska.

What does that mean for you?

****Local Control** - You have

a board that represents your interests in the electrical utility. You have a say in the rates you pay and how your electricity is delivered to you.

****Working for You** - ERPPD's focus is our customers. We don't pay dividends or answer to shareholders.

****Community Participation** - We live and work in the communities we serve. Also, through your generosity, we are able to give back through the Operation Round Up/ERPPD Community Development Fund - (see the September *Wire* for more information on the Fund)

****Environmental Stewards** - As of 2017 our wholesale electrical supplier was continued on page 3



RECYCLING WITH HEART

Elkhorn Rural Public Power Customer Rena Hoelscher recycles with a lot of heart.

Rena, who is an accomplished seamstress and has a sewing business, Sapphire's Sewing, takes old worn out jeans and makes them into something extraordinary.

She made two quilts from jeans donated by ERPPD. The one with the heart (pictured below to the left) was donated to a cancer benefit in Hastings, NE and the orange/navy squares quilt (pictured below right) was donated to a poker run that will raise money

for the Norfolk Rescue Mission.

Rena has done many sewing projects from creating prom dresses to wedding dress alterations, to uniform and work clothing repairs, to leather chaps to zippers.

She credits having electricity to being able to complete her projects. Rena said, "I love my electricity! Do you know how exhausting it is to run a sewing machine?"

A couple of her most unique projects were a quilt made out of koozies with cotton, jean and fleece material and hanging sleeping cubes for sugar gliders (pictured

right - small possum-like mammals indigenous to Australia).

Rena is very environmentally conscientious.

She even recycles the cotton jean material she cannot re-purpose. She sends it to a company in Kansas where it is made into insulation that is used in Habitat for Humanity houses all across the nation.



Sugar Glider



CANDIDATE TRAINING SCHOOL

Thinking about running for office?
Don't know where to start?
Check out the NREA Candidate Training session
When: November 15
Where: ERPPD Battle Creek Headquarters

Topic Areas:

- *Effective Fund Raising
- *Message Development
- *Campaign Budgeting
- *Campaign Law
- *Media Relations

Contact James at
(402) 475-4988 for more
information or to register.



HELP

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
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ALL PUBLIC POWER CONTINUED . . .

65% carbon free and utilizing almost 17% renewable resources. Those percentages will continue to grow as technology advances.

Last but certainly not least: ****Dedicated Employees** - Working tirelessly to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to you. ERPPD employees have a combined total of 768 years of experience and the board of directors has a combined total of 112 years of experience.

That experience brings you some of the lowest residential rates in the state (9.8 cents as compared to 11 cents, the 2017 state average) and very reliable service - 99.98% reliability.

As we celebrate Public Power Month, we are certainly grateful to be in an all public power state, serving you.



Plugged into the Public Power Advantage

NEW APPRENTICE LINEMAN

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is proud to announce that Chris Bentley was hired as a full-time apprentice lineman starting Sept. 1.

Chris has been working with Elkhorn since April 2018 when he started working Fridays after classes at Northeast Community College. That was good for us, because in just a couple of weeks he was in the thick of storm duties after the 3-day blizzard that damaged numerous poles and miles of line (pictured below). That storm was later declared a disaster by the federal government.

Even after that, he continued to work with us for his summer internship and then as a seasonal worker.

After graduating from the Northeast Community College Utility Line program this May, Chris continued to do seasonal work.

Chris is a Neligh native and will be located out of the Neligh outpost.



Pictured above: Chris Bentley runs the controls for the digger truck during bucket truck rescue training.



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HARVEST SEASON SAFETY TIPS

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, ERPPD and Safe Electricity.com urge farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

We encourage farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents. We also encourage you to get a safety window decal (pictured below) to place on a window in the cab of your equipment to remind you to look out for power lines and what to do if you are in an accident with power lines.

Here are some other tips for a safe harvest season:

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned

workers safe.

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions could cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If

power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.


- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles, or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- If you are in equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.


Please stop by or contact us at 402-675-2185 to get the window decals and have a safe and productive harvest season.

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

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



(800) 675-2185



If you can safely drive away...

If you must exit the machinery...

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 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

40 ft. radius safe distance

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 let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.