

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



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.

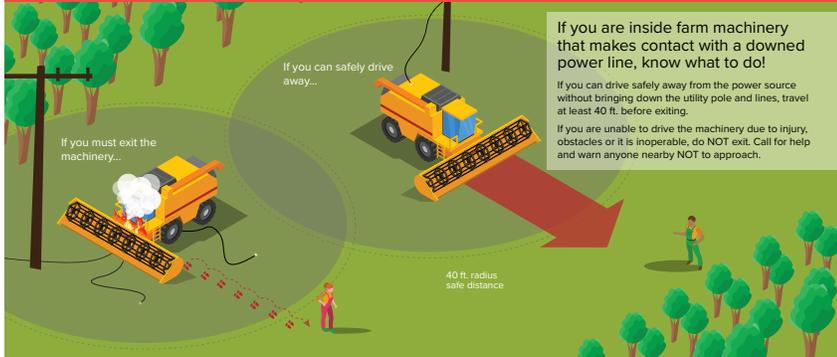
Please stop by or contact us at 402-675-2185 to get the window decals and have a safe and productive harvest season.

**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.