



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

October 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 32, Number 10

## ERPPD MISSION PART I: SAFETY

*From the GM, Mark Johnson*

As many of you know, October is Public Power Month. A time when we celebrate the public power business model and highlight the advantages it brings to our communities. ERPPD has been serving our customers since 1940. Our industry continues to grow and change, yet the foundation of public power remains intact.

As I start my tenure at Elkhorn, I have been pleased to witness a steadfast commitment to our mission statement displayed by our employees and Board of Directors.

Over the next couple of months, I would like to highlight that mission statement which reads: Elkhorn Rural Public Power

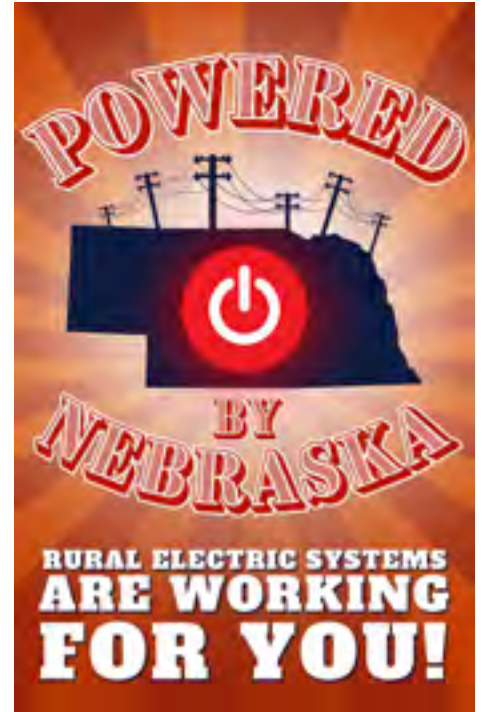


*Pictured front left: Cleon Schwede and the Battle Creek Rescue team simulate a transport for electrical contact during the Mock Mayday exercise in July. This is just one way that ERPPD staff prepare for emergencies and stay safe.*

District is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for ALL customers.

Safety is our top priority at Elkhorn.

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**October is Public Power Month**

*Nebraska is the only public power state in the nation. Public Power Districts are in the business to provide safe, reliable cost-effective electricity which is something to celebrate!*

## METER CHANGES NEARING COMPLETION

The conversion to the new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system has been in the process since March 2022.

Even with some supply chain issues, the residential meters have, largely, been installed for the new AMI system. Irrigation meter installations will restart now that load control season is over, and the remaining residential meters

will continue to be installed.

ERPPD has contracted with Border States/Chapman Metering to do the meter changes – be on the lookout for the vehicles pictured to the right.

This new AMI system updates our technology and helps to monitor the system for blinks and outages and will enhance our service to you.





# ERPPD MISSION - SAFETY CON'T.

Working with electricity can be dangerous. We are committed to keeping safety front of mind to help mitigate this risk not only for our employees but also our customers and the public.

Our employees' safety starts with ensuring they receive the proper training. ERPPD's line techs go through a four-year apprentice program before becoming a certified Journeyman Line Tech. This apprenticeship is in addition to the skills and knowledge learned from a utility line program. After certification, they continue to participate in ongoing training to keep up to date on the latest procedures and advancements in technology.

Ongoing training takes place

throughout the year and is not only focused on safe work practices but also trains our employees on how to respond to potential emergencies. Staff recently participated in two examples of this emergency response training.

On August 15, we held our annual Pole Top rescue training. This annual training is provided to us through the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, Job Training and Safety program.

We held a Mock Mayday drill on July 20th. During this training, we simulated an emergency in the field and practiced how to respond to the situation. This drill was coordinated with local stakeholders including



Pictured above: Kyle Kester, journeyman, performs pole top rescue, while Talyn Campbell, intern, observes.



Pictured above: Blake Papik, journeyman, climbs the pole while Matt Nelson, Job Safety and Training instructor, observes. Right: Matt Nelson, instructor, gives tips on securing the victim while crews observe.



Pictured right: Chris Bentley (left), journeyman, shows Mark Johnson, GM, and Alex Wiemers, CSR, his climbing equipment at pole top rescue safety training.



# ERPPD MISSION SAFETY - CON'T.

Battle Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Battle Creek Public Schools, LifeNet, and Madison County Sheriff's Dispatch Center.

Safety in the workplace is practiced by all employees. ERPPD employees hold monthly safety committee meetings where they actively discuss safety ideas and concerns. Journeyman Line Tech, Ryan Kittelson, fills our role of Safety Director and is tasked with promoting our safety



Pictured left: Aerial view of the Mock Mayday scenario performed in July with the Battle Creek VFD and Rescue.

culture as well as chairing the employee-led safety committee.

Beyond training opportunities, ERPPD performs testing on our equipment. Frequent testing of our specialized equipment and personal protective equipment helps ensure safe work practices.

We also work with representatives from many organizations on various aspects of safety. This includes our participation in the Rural Electric Safety

Achievement Program (RESAP). This three-year audit process determines what areas of the program we are strong in and offers suggestions where improvements can be made. Through the RESAP program we create and follow a yearly, ongoing, safety improvement plan, that helps build a culture of safety throughout the organization.

Each of these efforts, among many more, are part of our ongoing commitment to safety. Ensuring the safety of our employees, customers, and the communities we serve, remains the first pillar of our mission statement and our top priority.

## TRUCK FOR SALE:

Part of keeping our mission of safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity for our customers is having a vehicle maintenance and replacement program. The truck pictured to the right is available for purchase as it is being rotated out of ERPPD's fleet.

**Specs:** 2000 Ford; V 10 gas engine with 212,234 miles.

The truck is available for viewing at BC headquarters 206 N. 4th St. Battle Creek 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Minimum bid is \$1,000. A sealed bid on the truck may be made starting **Monday, October 9**, by mail to PO Box 310, Battle Creek NE 68715 or e-mail to tknutson@erppd.com.

The sale will close at **4:00 p.m. Friday, October 20**. The winning bid will be selected and the buyer notified.

The truck will be listed on Facebook Marketplaces as well.

If you have questions about the truck, call 402-675-2185 and ask for Chris Sovereign.





# YOUR CHANGE ADDS UP!



Pictured Clockwise: **Elgin Rescue Squad:** (front row to back row, left to right): Kari Schindler (holding the check), Kimberly Young, Vicki Miller, Jessie Hofer, Jessica Niewohner, Lacy Bottorf, Julie Schiltmeyer, Terry Reicks, Craig Niewohner, Dean Schrage, Duane Miller and Bud Miller.

**Meadow Grove VFD** - Garland Goracke, and the 30-year-old PPE that is going to be replaced.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School** - Ashley Hekrdle

**Norfolk Rotary Music in the Park** - Christine Keller and Andy Labenz

**Pierce HS Post Prom** - Keyston Pfanstiel, Wyatt Asmus, Clayton Carlson, and Payton Kruntorad.



## Community Development Fund Requests and Awards August 2023

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Bright Horizons	Project Homeless Connect	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Elgin Community Club	Elgin Tractor Pull	Elgin	\$500.00
Elgin Rescue	New Ambulance and Equipment	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Meadow Grove VFD	Protective Gear Replacement	Meadow Grove	\$1,000.00
Norfolk Noon Rotary Club	Music in the Park	Norfolk	\$500.00
Our Savior Lutheran Church	2024 Vacation Bible School	Norfolk	\$250.00
Pierce Jr/Sr Post Prom	Post Prom	Pierce	\$50.00
Washington Elementary School PTO	Book Vending Machine	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$5,300.00</b>

<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	<b>Application Deadline October 23, 2023</b>	<b>Board Meeting Date: November 6, 2023</b>
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