

THE PowerLines REPORT

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MAY 2021

National Electrical Safety Month

Every day we go about our lives at our homes, schools, communities, and workplaces relying on dependable and safe electricity to power our daily routines. While electricity is the foundation of modern life, it also requires that all of us understand how to use and consume it safely. When we do, we can reduce a good portion of the annual 35,000 electrical related fires, 500 fatalities, 1,130 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage and loss.

And since May is National Electrical Safety Month, there is no better time to remind our members how to avoid potential electrical hazards. Below is a list of important electricity safety tips that will help keep you and your family safe. Stay safe, folks!

Electrical Safety Indoors

- Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- Remember, extension cords are intended to be temporary; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- Keep your home's electrical system in good repair. Contact a licensed electrician if you have flickering lights, sparks, non-functioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

Electrical Safety Outdoors

- Never touch a downed power line!
- Always call DMEA if you see lines down or damaged equipment.
- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Know what's below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the National One Call Center, to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
- Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.
- Follow the 10-foot rule: maintain a minimum 10-foot 360 degrees clearance around the power lines to accommodate for direct contacts and current jumps (aka: arcing).

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 17 3:00PM

DMEA's 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually using Zoom. Register to attend the meeting at www.dmea.com. Registration closes Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Why should you attend?

- Get to know your DMEA Board of Directors
- Find out the 2021 Board of Directors Election results
- Hear about your co-op's major accomplishments over the past year
- Have a chance to win some great raffle prizes

Plus, we'll unveil the recipients of DMEA's 2021 Powering Connection Business Grants!



All DMEA members eligible to vote in the 2021 Board of Directors Election will receive a ballot in the mail at the end of this month. As a member of the cooperative, it is both your right and responsibility to vote for your board representatives.

Here's how you can cast your vote:

By mail: Complete your ballot, place it in the secrecy envelope, seal, sign and return by mail. Be sure to put your ballot in the mail before June 11, 2021, so that it arrives in time.

Drop off: After completing your ballot like above, bring it to your local DMEA office and place it in the locked ballot drop box located in the lobby.

All votes will be counted by a third-party independent election company, Survey and Ballot Systems. The results will be announced during the Annual Meeting.

BENEFITS OF FIBER INTERNET

Elevate's 100% fiber network is known for speed (it's REALLY fast). So you get zero-lag gaming, crystal-clear Zoom calls, and you never have to wait for your show to buffer. But there are so many other benefits to fiber!

Future Proof

The fiber network we install today will be able to handle the increased demand for more bandwidth in the future. As that demand grows, only the network equipment will need to be upgraded over time, not the actual fiber cables.

Security

We build a dedicated fiber line directly to your home or business, meaning you will get more consistent speeds. Plus, since fiber cables do not radiate a signal, it is extremely difficult to extract data from it—making it more secure.

Technology

Since fiber is made of glass, it transmits light instead of electricity. Other technologies that deliver internet include cable, copper, DSL, among others. These other technologies transmit with electricity and are shared lines (vs. dedicated like our fiber lines), meaning your experience when using non-fiber technologies will suffer based on the amount of people on the network.

Speed

Fiber optic cables send data up to 1,000 times faster than copper cables, meaning it is easier to connect with others, upload data, load websites, and stream. All other technologies on the market have lower upload speeds than download. With fiber, you get the same fast speed, upload and download.

Reliability

Fiber can better withstand different temperatures, water, and weather than other technologies. And since we build fiber lines directly to your home, you don't have to worry about spotty signals from a satellite or tower.

Economic Development

Fiber brings opportunity. Not just the opportunity for buffer-free streaming, but opportunity for businesses to expand and for our communities to attract new businesses. Our areas can also attract new residents, who may telecommute, and can only live here because of the power of fiber.

ELEVATE™

elevateinternet.com / 844-386-8744



Congratulations, Dennis!

Ever since his high school graduation, Dennis Cramer knew exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up, a computer programmer. After graduating as a database programmer in 1977, he entered the computer programming industry, and eventually served as a computer programmer with Colorado Ute and later Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. In March 2011, Dennis joined the DMEA family as our Database Programmer & Analyst: a title he held his entire 10-year tenure at DMEA. But more importantly, this April 30, he gets to say goodbye to the 9-5 schedule for good!

Unlike some retirees, Dennis has been counting down to retirement with enthusiasm. And no, it's not that he hasn't enjoyed his work, just that he enjoys time with his family more. Who doesn't? This commitment to family has led Dennis and his wife to foster 113 children in addition to raising five of their own: three biological, two adopted. One hundred and eighteen children later and Dennis has not only given his love freely to the many children in need in our local communities, but he also claims to have finally learned some patience!

Please join us in congratulating Dennis on retirement, and wish him luck as he and his wife head out to camp in all 49 contiguous states in their retirement! First stop: Missouri to see, you guessed it, family.

MARCH PLAY IT SAFE

KIDS ELECTRICAL SAFETY COMPETITION

Congratulations to last month's contest winner, Brea Shaver, who used a very creative video to correctly illustrate March's safety scenario:

"Anna was digging a hole to plant a tree and noticed a wire in the hole. What should she have done before digging and what should she do now?"



Always call 811 before you dig. If you happen to hit an underground line while you are digging, stay back, secure the area, and call DMEA immediately at 877-687-3632.



Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

Read Office
21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:
1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com |    

Your Board of Directors:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Bill Patterson, District 1</i> | <i>Kyle Martinez, District 2</i> |
| <i>Brad Harding, District 3</i> | <i>Ken Watson, District 4</i> |
| <i>Chris Hauck, District 5</i> | <i>Damon Lockhart, District 6</i> |
| <i>Enno Heuscher, District 7</i> | <i>Stacia Cannon, North</i> |
| <i>Jock Fleming, South</i> | |

DMEA Board Meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly beginning at 3PM with the public comment period at 5PM. Call 970-240-1212 to confirm date, time, and location.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC, 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.instake@usda.gov.



DMEA COOKS!

Featuring favorite recipes from our DMEA family

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Brooke Mathis, Customer Service Representative



Ingredients:

14 tbsp unsalted butter, softened
1 c granulated sugar
½ c light brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 ½ c flour
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
3 c chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° and line a few trays with baking paper or nonstick spray. Mix softened butter and both sugars and beat with a mixer until light and fluffy. Add the vanilla and eggs, beating between each addition just until mixed. Add the flour, baking soda, and salt and beat on low speed just until combined. If the dough is too wet, add more flour (one tablespoon at a time – no more than 3 total).

Fold in the chocolate chips until just incorporated. Use an ice cream or cookie scoop (1/4 cup for large, 1.5 tablespoons for medium) and roll into a ball and place on baking sheets allowing room for spreading. Bake one tray of cookies at a time 10-12 minutes for large and 8-9 for small.



WIN A RAZOR SCOOTER!

Participate in DMEA's all-new safety program, PLAY IT SAFE. The contest is open to kids in K through 5th grade. Each month, DMEA will announce a new electrical safety problem that your student can research and resolve. The best submission wins, and the prizes are awesome!

MAY SAFETY DILEMMA

Your neighbor's tree is growing close to a power line. You notice the tree starts to spark when the wind blows. What should you do?

What to submit:

This month, your submissions must be in the form of a comic. Comics can be submitted at www.dmea.com/safety-competition.

When to submit:

Entry period is May 1, 2021 - May 31, 2021.

Who can participate:

Kids in grades K-5th

What you can win:

This month's prize is a Razor scooter!

