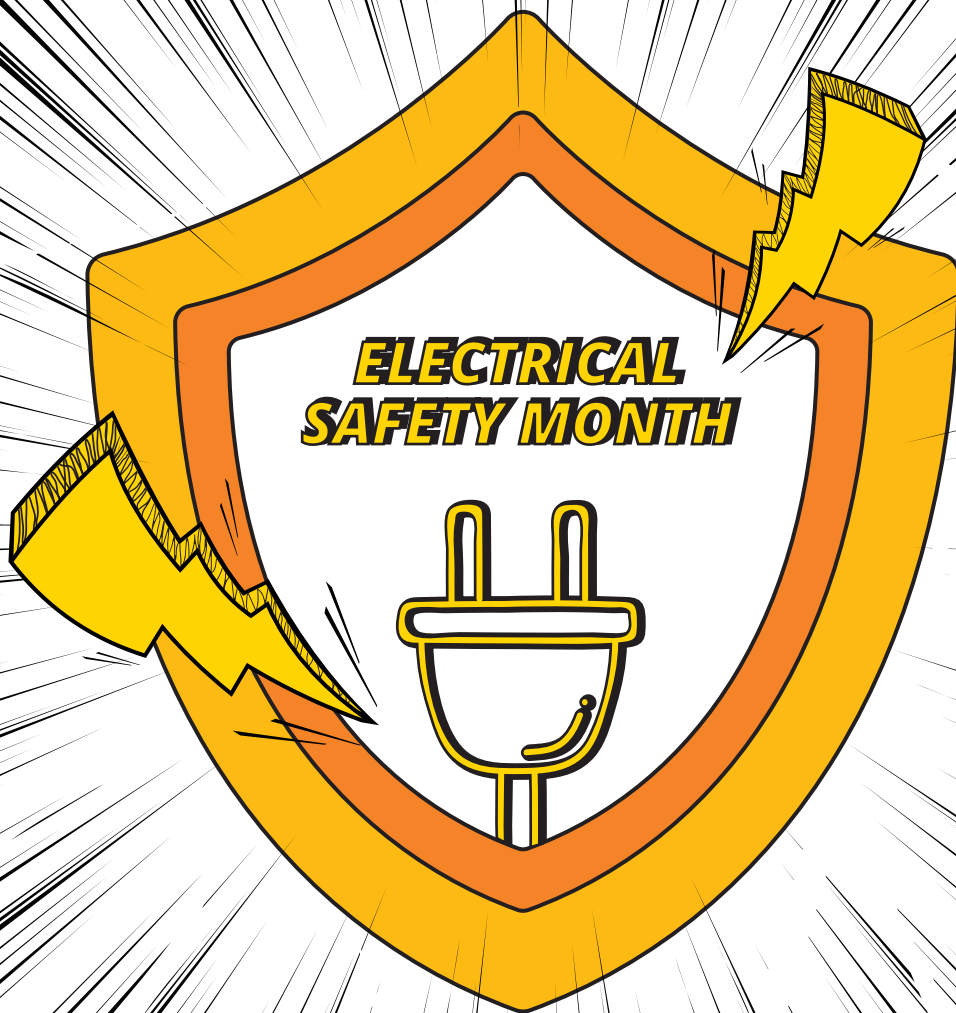


MAY 2023

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



**PLUG INTO SAFETY**

## CONTACT US

### Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409  
Minnesota Relay Service 711  
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

### Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### 24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

### Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or  
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166  
www.gopherstateonecall.org

### Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

### CAREERS — Be a Part of Our Energy

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers  
HResources@dakotaelectric.com  
651-463-6301

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota  
Electric® are registered service marks of the  
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to  
change without notice. Funds are limited and  
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *Vice Chair*  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*  
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller | *MREA Director*

CIRCUITS | MAY 2023

# MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



## CREATING A CULTURE OF SAFETY

At Dakota Electric, we are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. Our lineworkers are required to always wear personal protective equipment when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing, which limits potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated rubber gloves and sleeves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the office as well as out in the field.

Dakota Electric is also part of a national accreditation program, Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), which evaluates cooperatives on their safety

procedures, system inspections and maintenance, training and public education. RESAP is one of the few programs in the country that provides electric cooperatives a management tool for continuous safety and loss control assessment.

Dakota Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members and encourage the public to call 911 if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

STAY BACK.  
STAY SAFE.

Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.

**CALL 911 IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE!**



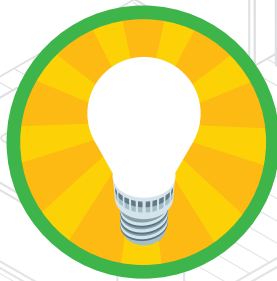
# A SAFE, HAPPY HOME

FOUR EASY WAYS TO BOOST ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME



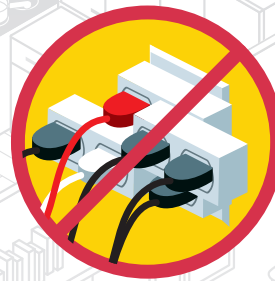
## **DON'T**

Place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



## **DO**

Ensure you're using LED bulbs in all light fixtures.



## **DON'T**

Overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

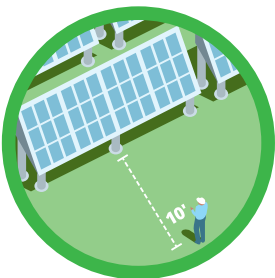


## **DO**

Keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

# SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



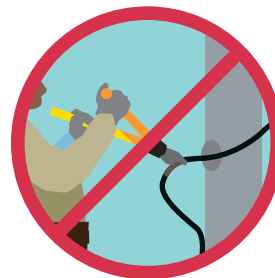
## **DO**

Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



## **DON'T**

Walk on solar panels.



## **DON'T**

Cut any wiring to the solar panels.



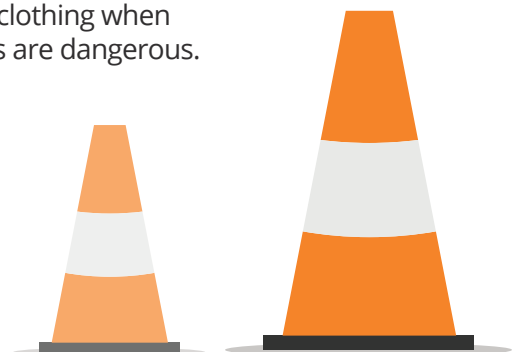
## **DON'T**

Touch broken or damaged solar panels.

# WORK ZONE SAFETY

Our utility trucks are equipped with flashing lights and reflective materials. Work zones are marked on the road with orange cones and our lineworkers wear reflective clothing when working near roadways, but even with these measures in place, work zones are dangerous. Below are some tips to keep yourself and others safe in work zones.

- Pay attention and limit distractions
- Follow posted signs
- Slow down
- Allow plenty of room
- Remain calm





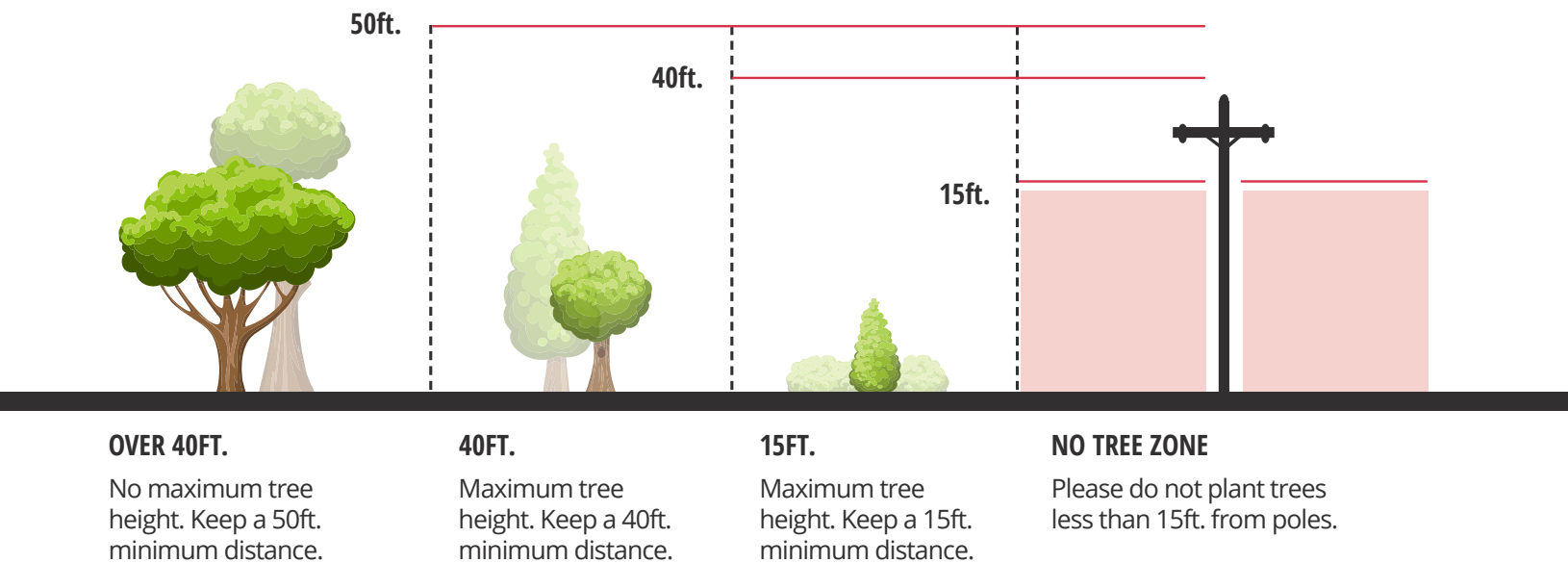
# PLANTING GUIDELINES

Landscaping is a great way to increase the value of your property and save energy, but trees and shrubs planted too close to power lines and other electrical equipment can create both safety and reliability concerns. You can help maintain power line access and clearance by planning ahead before planting trees and shrubs. These guidelines help ensure a safe and reliable service for all Dakota Electric members.

Visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/trimming-and-planting](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/trimming-and-planting) for more information.



Always call 811 or  
1-800-252-1166  
before you dig.



## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members.

In 2020, we began a five-year plan to clear certain areas in our service area, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you — our members!**

# YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour was established to inspire our next generation of leaders. Students who participate receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about the cooperative business model, meet elected officials, visit monuments and museums, tour federal agencies and discuss issues that are most important to them.

Dakota Electric has sent approximately 155 students since 1967. This commitment to our community is a fundamental part of what makes us more than your average utility.

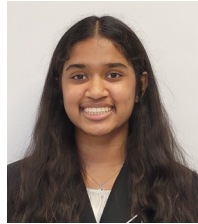
Below are the students that Dakota Electric will be sponsoring for this year's Youth Tour.



**Brooke Ayano**  
Rosemount High School  
Grade 11



**Morgan Becker**  
Eagan High School  
Grade 11



**Sahasra Molleti**  
Eastview High School  
Grade 11



**Sneha Narra**  
Eastview High School  
Grade 11



**Theo Pollock**  
Apple Valley High School  
Grade 10



**Tanisha Senapati**  
Eastview High School  
Grade 11  
*Alternate*

## SUMMER POLE INSPECTIONS

Utili-Tech, a pole inspection contractor hired by Dakota Electric, is conducting annual pole inspections in Greenvale, Waterford, Sciota, Stanton, Randolph and Cannon Falls Townships, as well as the cities of Randolph and Cannon Falls throughout June, July and August. The inspector will attempt to contact each member before performing inspections and might need to walk through backyards and private properties. The use of an ATV may be required to access certain pole locations.

Please contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6265 if you have questions or concerns about pole inspections.

## REMINDER!

If you have a load control receiver, we encourage you to start your AC to make sure everything is connected properly before the summer heat hits. Call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 if you have any questions.

## FARM BABIES

MINNESOTA ZOO





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Ride & Drive**  
May 23, 3-7 p.m.  
Buck Hill, Burnsville
- **Board Meeting**  
May 25, 8:30 a.m.
- **Twins Clinic**  
June 10, 9-11 a.m.  
Dodge Middle School,  
Farmington

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

Find board meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes at [www.dakotaelectric.com/monthly-boardmeetings](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/monthly-boardmeetings).



## CONNECT WITH US!

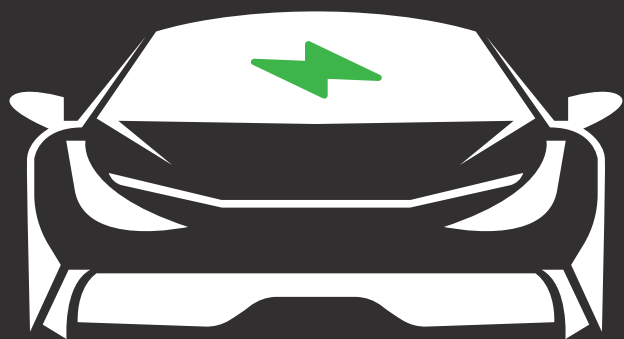


# REGISTER TODAY!

MAY 23, 2023

3-7 PM

BUCK HILL



## RIDE & DRIVE EVENT

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER

