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.

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 DOWNEO 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.


**50ft.**
- OVER 40FT.
  - No maximum tree height. Keep a 50ft. minimum distance.

**40ft.**
- 40FT.
  - Maximum tree height. Keep a 40ft. minimum distance.

**15ft.**
- 15FT.
  - Maximum tree height. Keep a 15ft. minimum distance.

**NO TREE ZONE**
- Please do not plant trees less than 15ft. from poles.

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**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!
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

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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.
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

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