

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Work it hot or ground it dead

Brad Martell, a journeyman lineman for Roughrider Electric, participated in Hotline School in June. At this station, he practiced applying personal protective grounds on the pole and lines to protect himself from the hazards of voltage.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEWNEY

Tyler Schlosser, journeyman lineman for Roughrider Electric Cooperative, served as a guest instructor at Hotline School.

Work it hot or ground it **DEAD**

The job of an electric cooperative lineworker is to help build, maintain and repair the electric distribution system without disrupting the flow of power to its member-owners when possible. During the week of July 25 to 29, nearly 100 lineworkers from North Dakota's 16 electric distribution cooperatives including Roughrider Electric Cooperative went back to school to get a refresher course in the application of rubber goods and gloves to work on energized high-voltage power lines. They also practiced using personal protective grounds as part of the process of de-energizing a power line to allow repairs to be completed safely. While on the job, linemen have the option to work a power line hot or ground it dead.

Hotline School is hosted annually by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Mandan, with support from vendors and manufacturers. The objectives are to network best practices amongst North Dakota lineworkers from apprentices to skilled leaders in the field; to learn practical skills and safe work procedures with hands-on instruction and demonstrations from experienced lineworkers; and to apply skills learned throughout six work stations under the guidance of skilled mentors. Education starts in the classroom and ends in the field with hands-on training and practice.

Four of the six stations required participants to develop an equipotential zone (EPZ) to protect the worker. EPZ has been proven to be the most effective means to ground for the personal protection of the lineworker. The other two stations included traditional hotline work situations that require the use of rubber gloves and cover-up to insulate energized lines and apparatuses.

Christina Roemmich, director of safety services for NDAREC, says linemen partake in safety and technical training throughout the year. Field training, in a controlled environment like hotline school, is the best time for linemen to apply the skills they have learned. "When an outage occurs or storm restoration is required, the linemen have practiced the skills needed to complete the job safely," she says.

Jason Bentz, manager of operations for Roughrider Electric Cooperative, says when Roughrider sends crews to hotline training, the goal is for the linemen to be confident

and knowledgeable in the event they have to use the techniques on the job.

"This helps the crews who never had to do a hotline cut-over or pole change-out hot," he explains. "We have the latest in equipment from various vendors to help the crews use the equipment safely and effectively, so when we do get something new, they have already tried it in a controlled environment."

Roughrider Electric Cooperative's own Brock Swensrud and Tyler Schlosser were among the instructors who helped pass on some of their knowledge. Other participants at this year's hotline school were Mitch Krebs, Brad Martell, Kyle Irwin, Ryan Block, Russ Walters and Tanner Goetz. ■



Kyle Irwin (far left), journeyman lineman for Roughrider Electric Cooperative, watches an underground splice repair mid-span, in which the linemen discussed insulation and isolation, and grounding methods for that particular work.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SECURE PAY

DO YOU PREFER TO MAKE YOUR UTILITY PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE?

OUR AUTOMATED SYSTEM,

Secure Pay, ENSURES A SAFE, RELIABLE METHOD. ALL PHONE PAYMENTS WILL USE THIS **Secure Pay** PHONE SYSTEM.

TO PAY USING OUR AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM, CALL US TOLL-FREE AT **1-844-241-0260**.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ADDED THIS FEATURE TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE PAYMENT CARD INDUSTRY (PCI) DATA SECURITY STANDARD. THESE WORLDWIDE REQUIREMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP COMPANIES THAT PROCESS SUCH PAYMENTS PREVENT CREDIT CARD FRAUD THROUGH INCREASED DATA CONTROLS. MOVING TO THIS SYSTEM ENSURES OUR CONTINUED ABILITY TO ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS.

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 29, 2016

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on July 29.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 24, 2016, meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report.

2016 Update of the 2014 Load Forecast and approval: In connection with the Rural Utilities Service loan application and Roughrider's work plan, the Board reviewed and discussed the 2016 Update to the 2014 Load Forecast.

Chief Financial Officer report:

Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

Operations and Construction report:

Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz stated that new cable replacement was completed in Beulah, so that should cut down on outages in that area.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. Central Time on Aug. 30, 2016, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, North Dakota.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2016 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5



The Center of Customer Engagement

Manage your Roughrider Electric Cooperative account right from your smart phone with SmartHub.

At the touch of a button, you can:

- make payments
- notify our billing department of account issues
- check your electric usage
- communicate directly with us

Download the FREE mobile or tablet app in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

Online bill pay will now be in SmartHub, available through our web site, roughriderelectric.com.



powered by



With SmartHub, the power of data is in your hands through convenient account management and detailed usage information. SmartHub, a mobile and Web app, delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your mobile device or on your PC. The two-way communication available with SmartHub allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about special offers, programs, events and more.

Download the FREE app today for secure account management right at your fingertips.

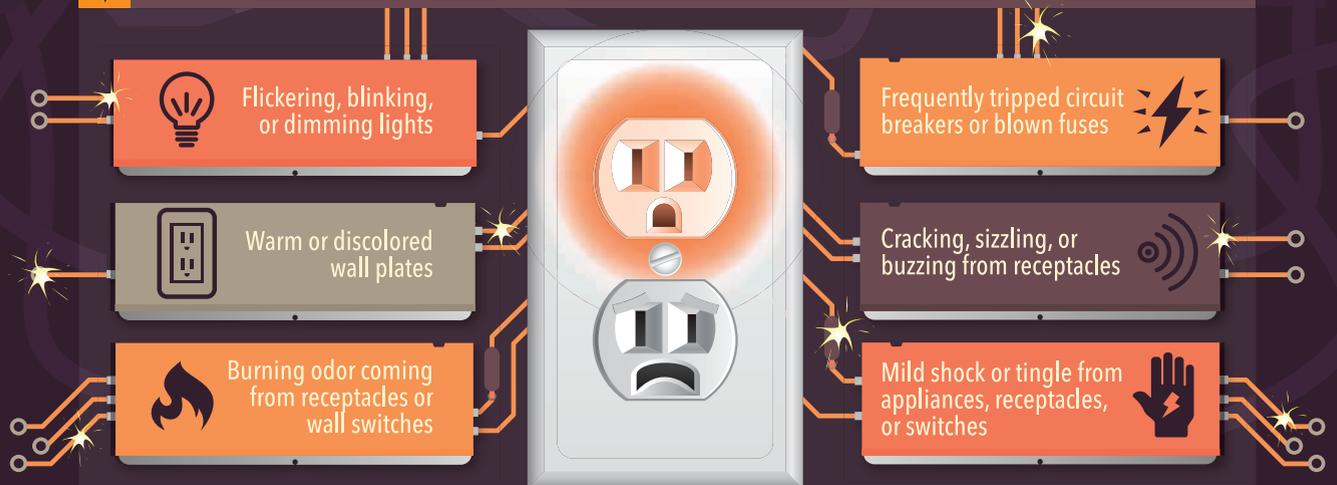


www.smarthubapp.com

DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR HOME!

i According to the National Fire Protection Association, **47,700 home fires** in the U.S. are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year. These fires result in **418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage**. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.

OVERLOADED CIRCUIT WARNING SIGNS

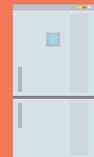


HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.



All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat-producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.



A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.



Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.



50%

The CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). To learn more about AFCIs, visit ESFI.org.



Only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture. Using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.

Don't look for Pokémon near electrical equipment



Gotta catch 'em all?



Fine. Just be careful catching Pokémon around high-voltage electrical equipment.

That's the warning electric cooperatives and other utilities are sharing with players of Pokémon Go, the new smartphone-based augmented reality game in which players try to catch Pokémon in real world places.

Pokémon turn up everywhere, from the North Dakota Capitol grounds to local restaurants and parks. But they're also appearing at electric substations, which is concerning your local electric cooperative.

The game allows players to train, battle and capture Pokémon through "geocaching," during which players use their smartphones to hunt the characters hiding in the real world.

The reality game may be drawing players into some dangerous situations. Online threads are reporting the "electric" type Pokémon can be found near electrical sites.

Electric cooperatives cannot control where the Pokémon appear, making it important for players to make sure they catch their Pokémon from a safe distance.

Climbing a utility pole or a fence surrounding a substation is not only trespassing, it's dangerous. Poles, substations and transformers are for processing electricity — not for playing games.

Numerous co-ops have taken to social media to get the word out.

"Searching for the rarest of the rare in #PokémonGO? Well, we know one place NOT to look," Cass County Electric Cooperative, based in Fargo, wrote on its Facebook page.

The post continues: "Entering electrical substations is both a crime and incredibly dangerous — NEVER attempt to gain access to one. Trust us. Zapdos isn't in there. We checked." It refers to Zapdos, a rare electric bird Pokémon which, in the original games, was found in a power plant.

Parents of children are encouraged to talk to their children about how to be safe around electricity. Here are some important safety tips:

- Stay away from power lines, transformers, substations and electrical work sites.
- NEVER touch electric equipment, including transformers and power lines.
- Do not climb power poles or throw things into power lines.
- Stay away from power lines that have fallen because they can still be energized.
- Power lines near trees also pose a danger; exercise caution and check for power lines before climbing a tree. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the north and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
William Retterath; Center794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England579-4395

MANAGEMENT

Don FranklundCo-General Manager/CEO
Chris BaumgartnerCo-General Manager/CEO



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

[facebook.com/RoughriderElectric](https://www.facebook.com/RoughriderElectric)
twitter.com/RoughriderCoop