

CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • NOVEMBER 2023



Serving up energy savings

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound. The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking, and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Cornhusker Public Power District wants to remind customers of a few energy efficiency tips to help lower their monthly energy use.

With holiday lights adorning homes for well over a month, make the switch to LEDs to save energy. LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use

smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers, and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

Source: NRECA

Beware of downed power lines

Storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged: **Step potential** happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage. **Touch potential** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death, since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live. Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment.

The first thing to do should you approach an accident scene or make contact with poles or wires is to call 911. Stay in the equipment or vehicle. Electric voltage might be dispersing in ripples away from the point where electricity is going to ground. As it dissipates, there is less voltage. If you have one foot in one band of voltage and the other foot in a lesser voltage - the electricity will want to equalize through your body and you could be electrocuted.

STEP POTENTIAL know what to do

If the car you are in hits a utility pole, your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized. Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY INJURED!**

- Stay in the car and call 911.
- Fire is the **only** reason to leave the vehicle before the utility professional arrives.
- Open the vehicle door & **jump** clear of the vehicle with your feet together.
- DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Continue to **hop** or **shuffle** away with your feet together as far as you can.

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Warn others approaching the scene to stay back and wait until utility personnel arrive. Anyone crossing into the area could be severely or fatally injured. People inside the vehicle in such an accident are safe, because they are not providing a path to ground. **DO NOT** exit the vehicle until utility personnel say it is safe.

If there is a fire, exit the vehicle without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, then hop or shuffle with your feet as close together as possible to reduce the exposure to the ripples of voltage that could be pulsing through the soil.

Cornhusker Public Power District has cards (pictured above) available at the Columbus office for you to place in your vehicle so you have a reminder of what to do.

Electrical Safety

School safety programs were presented to area fifth graders this fall. Here are some of the details by the numbers:



Number of area schools participating. From schools in the east service area at Howells/Dodge Consolidated Elementary to schools in the west service area at Spalding Elementary.

One careless mistake around electricity can change our lives forever. Many electrical accidents can be avoided as we sometimes forget how dangerous electricity can be. Teaching children to be safe around electricity is a number one priority of Cornhusker Public Power District.



Students learned to be safe around electricity from looking up & looking out for overhead power lines to unplugging a toaster **first** before freeing stuck toast, and to not place devices near liquids.



Lessons learned

Electricity is always searching for the easiest path to the ground. Be safe around electricity and don't become the path to ground.

Congratulations!

Cornhusker Public Power District customer Bert Kaup is the proud new owner of an EGO electric push mower! Bert visited the public power booth at the Nebraska State Fair and entered the drawing for an electric mower and was the official winner. Congratulations Bert!



CPPD Marketing Communications Specialist Jessica Kurpgeweit (r) presents the mower to Bert Kaup (middle) and her husband, Tim (l).

Cornhusker Public Power District will be

CLOSED

Friday November 10th in observance of Veterans Day & November 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Be on the hunt for safety

Do you realize electricity and gun use have a common characteristic? One mistake, and that just may be your last! Just like electricity, improper gun use can be lethal.

Utility poles and electrical equipment are not targets! NEVER shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, transformers or substations. A stray bullet could not only damage equipment, potentially interrupting electric service, but could be deadly to the shooter. Damage to the conductor could drop the line to the ground, causing a possibility of electrocution to those nearby.

Take note of power lines and electrical equipment, especially if you are going to be hunting in a densely wooded area where the equipment may not be visible.

Never place deer stands on utility poles or climb the poles! Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution. Placing decoys or other hunting gear on power lines or other utility equipment is also hazardous. Anything attached to a pole, except for utility equipment, is a hazard to utility workers.

Don't make line technicians hunt for damage or problems. Sometimes damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, or unless an outage occurs. Report any damages to Cornhusker Public Power District immediately.

Keep yourself safe this hunting season.

Open House Winners!

Cornhusker Public Power District gave away nine prizes (three at each location) to customers who attended the 80th Open House Celebrations in September. Prizes included an Amazon Fire 50" 4K Smart TV, two CGI Outdoor Portable Rocking Chairs, and a 30 Can Soft Insulated Cooler & CPPD Tumbler. Winners were:

SMART TV

Tim Bonk, Columbus Open House
Mike McCray, Fullerton Open House
Bill Armatys, Albion Open House



Tim Bonk

PORTABLE ROCKING CHAIRS

Bill Wegener, Columbus Open House
Christian Liesch, Fullerton Open House
Linda Hamling, Albion Open House



Linda Hamling

Don Salber

COOLER & TUMBLER

Jim Ogier, Columbus Open House
Jan Hellbusch, Fullerton Open House
Don Salber, Albion Open House



Got Electric

Fencing?

INSPECT IT REGULARLY



1. Make sure that fencing is visible.
Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.

Inspect electrical fencing regularly.
Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.

2.



3. Make sure your electrical fence is tight and well-supported.
A lack of support can cause it to sag.

Cap posts, especially metal T-posts.
This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.

4.



5. Check for a loose or sagging fence.
Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

Learn more about electrical safety at:



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Board meetings held the third Monday of each month at 9 AM. Agenda available during business hours.

EDITOR

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OFFICE HOURS

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