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POWER SOURCE



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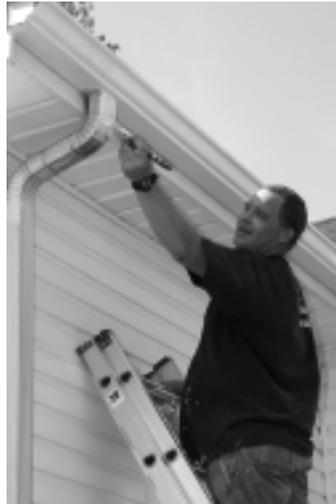
July 2011 Vol. 15 No. 07

Climb Safely, Avoid Power Lines When Using Ladders

Add your ladder to the list of outdoor equipment that can cause a serious electrical injury.

Sixty-five people die every year from electrocutions involving a metal ladder that touched an electrical wire in or around the house. In most of the cases, someone moves a metal ladder without lowering it to the ground and accidentally makes contact with an overhead electrical wire. Accidents also happen when people use metal ladders while handling an improperly grounded power tool.

Underwriters Laboratories and other rating agencies warn consumers not to bring their ladders within 10 feet of an overhead power line. They also recommend using fiberglass or wood ladders when working anywhere near electric wires or equipment. But any material can allow electricity to pass through it if it's wet.



The experts at UL also recommend that you:

- Buy ladders with a seal from UL or another accredited rating agency.
- Choose a ladder that is long enough for your job. Using a ladder that is too short is the culprit in many accidents.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using your ladder. They set limits on weight and height.
- Inspect your ladder each time you use it for cracks in the wood or crimps in the metal.
- Secure the ladder on a firm, level surface – not on rocks or boards.
- Don't carry equipment while you're climbing a ladder. Buy a tool belt or ask someone to hand you what you need.
- Distribute your weight evenly, and don't overextend your reach.
- Never stand on the top rung of a stepladder or on the bucket shelf.

Poles Being Treated In Your Area



Beginning this month, GLS, Ground Line Services out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing and treating poles for Farmers' Electric, (FEC). They will be in the Newkirk, Montoya, Quervo, Garita, and Trimentina areas. They will also be working north out of Fort Sumner.

Pole testing and treating is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, they are tested on a ten year rotation.



This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply safe, reliable electricity to our members.

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Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

Continued Drought Leaves Area A Tinderbox

It is amazing how much weather patterns can change from one year to the next. This time last year much of our service area was experiencing regular, timely rainfall following a relatively "wet" winter and spring season. This moisture helped area farmers produce near-record crops and area rangeland responded with significant growth of natural foliage. This year our area is experiencing exactly the opposite. Through the winter, spring, and early summer growing season, drought conditions continue to stress all sectors of our agricultural community. Combine hot, windy conditions with the drought we are experiencing and the stage was set for a record fire-season as well.

A number of area families have been impacted by recent fires, some have lost homes and valuable possessions, others have lost rangeland, a valuable food resource critical to livestock operations. Fortunately, the loss of homes, buildings, and livestock has been minimized by the courageous efforts and skill of area firefighters. We are

also very fortunate that no lives have been lost in our area, however, the loss of a volunteer firefighter in the Texas Panhandle serves to remind us of just how dangerous wildfires can be, particularly when driven by high wind conditions. With all of the danger and loss due to wildfires being reported in the news, it is difficult to believe that everyone in our

area is not over-cautious with flammable materials. Unbelievably, in the past few weeks I have seen smoldering cigarettes lying in the street, obviously tossed out by motorists who do not fully appreciate the danger.

Farmers' Electric has been fortunate as well, while we have lost close to fifty poles due to fire, fast-moving fires have burned past several thousand poles with little damage. As the cost of poles and wire are not covered by insurance, it is the members of Farmers' Electric who ultimately pay for the costs of repairs through their electric rates. With the price of replacing a single distribution

pole running from \$1,000 to \$1,500, repair costs can escalate quickly. I also want to acknowledge Farmers' Electric's service personnel and contractors who worked through and after the fires to replace poles and restore service. In many cases, poles were being replaced as firefighters fought flames just down the road.

Thus far, the fire with the greatest economic impact to Farmers' Electric and also the one that caused extended outages for members, began on Saturday, June 18 continuing to Sunday, Fathers' Day. In addition to losing a large number of Cooperative owned poles,

"Unbelievably, in the past few weeks I have seen smoldering cigarettes lying in the street, obviously tossed out by motorists who do not fully appreciate the danger."



Wildfires move very rapidly through dry brush fanned by the high winds

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POWER SOURCE

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88102-0550

Phone 762-4466 or

1-800-445-8541

www.fecnm.org

To Report An Outage

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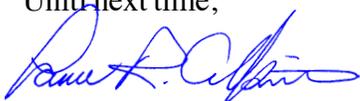
See **WILDFIRES** on **PAGE 3**

WILDFIRES from PAGE 2

a number of transmission structures owned and operated by Xcel Energy/SPS, on the transmission line between Clovis and Tucumcari were damaged, with the line going down Sunday morning. Members living in Santa Rosa, Newkirk and Conchas Dam areas were without power, or had limited power, until Farmers' personnel could re-route power from Clovis to those areas. Farmers' Electric continued to serve these members from Clovis until Xcel/SPS had fully completed repairs on Tuesday.

Farmers' Electric appreciates the extraordinary efforts of area firefighters and the efforts of neighbors who worked alongside and provided food and refreshments. Wildfires, caused by nature or by human activity, have been a part of life in our area since the first settlers arrived. As in football, the best offense is a good defense; it is much easier for firefighters to protect homes and property if homeowners have taken ample precautions well before a fire begins by limiting fuel sources like brush and tall grass around the home and outbuildings.

Until next time,



**It's almost
contest time!**

**Clue: Hybrid
Water Heater**

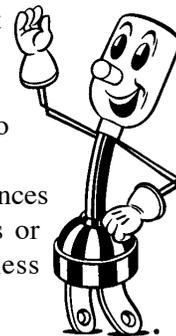
More details to follow...

Ask Willie!

Q. Dear Willie, most of my appliances around the house are old, but I have two kids in college right now and simply can't afford to buy newer, more efficient ones. Is there anything I can do to get more savings out of what I already have?

A. Great question! This is one of those a lot of people want to ask, but hesitate to.

Whether you have the newest, most efficient electric appliances or you're hanging onto some that practically qualify as relicts or antiques, you can use them smarter so that they consume less energy and waste less.



Here are a few helpful hints to start saving with older appliances:

- Move your refrigerator away from the stove, dishwasher, and heating vents. The closer the refrigerator is to these heat producers, the harder it has to work.
- Vacuum your refrigerator's coils every three months. When dirt builds up on the coils, the appliance has to use more energy to keep things cool.
- Repair the gaskets on your refrigerator's door if they come loose. Damaged gaskets let cold air leak out of the refrigerator. That's expensive air conditioning!
- If your older freezer doesn't self-defrost, do it yourself – as soon as a quarter-inch of ice builds up. Too much ice from build-up makes the freezer less efficient.
- Stop rinsing dishes by hand before you load them into the dishwasher, especially if yours has a pre-rinse or rinse/hold cycle. Simply scrape leftover food from the plates and let the dishwasher do the rest. Of course it's best if you wash them as soon as you can after eating. Make sure and run a full load in the dishwasher. It will use the same amount of energy whether it is full or half-full.
- Match the size of your pots and pans to the size of the burner on your stovetop. Placing a small pot on a large burner wastes a lot of heat.
- Cover pots and pans with lids so you can cook at a lower burner setting and quicker.
- Select the "small load" setting on your washing machine when you don't have enough laundry to fill the tub. At that setting, the washer will fill with less water. Also, use the cold water setting for washing your clothes. Most of the modern detergents are formulated to wash in cold water.
- Clean your clothes dryer filters after each load. This not only keeps your dryer from overheating and working too hard, it could also prevent a fire.
- Set your water heater at 120 degrees. This is plenty hot enough and will keep the elderly and children from scalding themselves if the water temperature is too high.

I could go on and on, but I'm sure you want to go on to another article in the newsletter!

Ask Willie

c/o Farmers' Electric Cooperative

PO Box 550

Clovis, NM 88102-0550

Sealed Bid Auction...

Two Ford F-250's on the Auction Block!

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Appx. Miles</u>
1	2008	Ford F-250 6.8 liter V-10 4x4, 3/4 ton, auto trans. A/C, am/fm radio, spotlight Electric windows and door locks Custom front grill guard, 40/20/40 cloth seats XL trim, flat bed ready!	114,300
2	2006	Ford F-250 8 cyl. 4x4, 3/4 ton, auto trans. A/C, am/fm radio, brake control Utility bed, 2 spotlights, tow package Cloth bench seat, XL trim	109,900



- Vehicle(s) may be viewed for general inspection Monday, July 18 through Thursday, July 28 at Farmers' Electric Cooperative, 3701 Thornton, Clovis, NM, during normal office hours, (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
- Sealed bids are due by **1:00 p.m., Thursday, July 28**. Bids will be opened at 1:30 p.m. and will be announced by 2:30 p.m. on the same day.
- All bids must include the bidder's name, telephone number, mailing address, item number, and bid amount.
- High bidder will have 5 business days after high bid announcements to complete payment and redeem their merchandise. If payment is not received, in-full, within this timeframe, the merchandise will be offered to the next highest bidder. High bidders must pay by cash or certified check.
- All vehicles and merchandise will be sold on an "AS IS" basis with **NO WARRANTY** or **FEC LIABILITY**. FEC reserves the right to refuse any or all bids - **THIS IS A RESERVE AUCTION!** Call Ed Thornsby at 575-760-5994 with any questions.



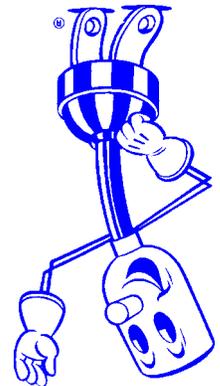
For more pictures go to:
www.fecnm.org

**Vehicle Bid - Attn: Ed Thornsby
Farmers' Electric Cooperative
PO Box 550
Clovis, NM 88102-0550**



For more pictures go to:
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