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POWER

Source

October 2013 Vol. 17 No. 10

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Linemen Learn Bucket Rescue



1.



2.



3.

As a lineman, you hope you never need to use it. As a victim, you pray someone knows how to use it. Bucket rescue is just as the phrase implies. It is a procedure that linemen learn and practice because, if there is ever an accident involving a fellow lineman, trapped and helpless in a bucket, time is of the essence.

During their bucket rescue training, our linemen simulate a situation where a fellow line-worker is injured in a bucket truck with the bucket still in the air. The bucket could be energized, still touching a power line carrying voltages from 2,400 volts to 115,000 volts. If the lineman that is trying to rescue the victim in the bucket does not understand all of the safety procedures, things could quickly turn even worse. The series of pictures above show the bucket rescue sequence of events.

After the bucket is resting on the ground, the injured lineman has to be removed from the bucket. Trying to lift a 175-200 pound, unconscious man from the bottom of a basket is impossible, unless you know the proper techniques. There are specific ways to do this so that the injured man is lifted from the basket safely and the person performing the rescue is not hurt in the process.

Our linemen practice these rescue procedures until they become routine. If a situation in the field ever arises, the rescue would almost be second nature. Cooperative linemen attend monthly safety meetings to sharpen their skills and learn safe working practices and procedures. As for pole top and bucket rescue, these are skills they hope they never have to use, but in the event they are needed, our guys will be ready.

How much can I save this winter by using energy wisely?

INSTALLING INSULATION in an uninsulated home can cut up to 30% or more off your heating and cooling bill.

TURNING THE THERMOSTAT DOWN may save you from 5% to 8% on your heating bill for each degree lowered.

LOWERING WATER TEMPERATURE to 120° F and insulating the water heater tank, can cut water heating cost by 10%.



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Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

Your Voice Can Make A Difference

It has been almost six months since we took a look at legislation and regulation of energy issues at the national level. Of course, all eyes are currently focused on the partial shut-down of the federal government and the looming debates over the debt ceiling. It appears that folks in Washington have forgotten about energy. However, even as congress is otherwise occupied, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to work through new regulations aimed at reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from new power plants as well as regulations to

reduce CO2 emissions from existing plants.

In late September, the EPA issued new “proposed” rules limiting the CO2 emissions from new coal and natural gas fueled electric generating plants. Folks may recall from past articles that CO2 has been identified by some in the scientific community as the primary greenhouse gas (GHG) responsible for global warming and climate change. Yes, the very gas folk’s exhale with every breath is also a product of fossil fuel combustion. Scientists, through various research methods, have determined that CO2 levels have increased from a pre-industrial level of 280 parts per million to about 383 parts per million today. Scientists also believe high GHG concentrations will result in a warming of the earth’s atmosphere, causing significant changes in the climate.

Whether we agree or disagree with the conclusion that the climate is changing as a direct result of human activity, it is clear that reductions in CO2 levels and new costs for consumers are coming through new regulations. Many believe a legislative solution will be more “consumer friendly,” however, a legislative solution now appears impossible. Under the proposed rules, new plants that burn coal must emit no more than 1,100 pounds of CO2 for every megawatt-hour (MWH) of electricity produced. New plants that burn natural gas must produce less than 1,000 pounds of CO2 for every MWH of electricity produced.

One MWH is roughly the amount of electricity consumed by 330 “average” homes in one hour. Existing technology, currently in use in new large plants that burn natural gas, is expected to easily meet the requirements. Unfortunately, there is no such technology to address plants that burn coal, therefore, no new coal plants will be built in the United States until the regulatory and/or legislative climate changes or technological advances can reduce CO2 emissions.

While these regulations should be of great concern for consumers, due to increased reliance on natural gas to generate electricity, consumers should also be aware that EPA will now address new regulations for existing generating plants. Polling of consumers conducted across the nation indicates that a majority of Americans, almost 65 percent, favor increasing regulations to reduce emissions from power plants, automobiles, and

“I ask that the members of Farmers’ Electric continue to follow the progress of energy issues and how decisions being made at EPA will impact the cost of all goods and services used each day, including the monthly electric bill.”

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EPA from PAGE 2

other sources. However, less than 30 percent support paying significant increases in costs to pay for improvements necessary to achieve greater emission reductions. In short, while a majority of Americans desire a cleaner environment, most are not ready to pay for the changes necessary to reach that goal. It is critical that new legislation and regulation work to balance the benefit of new regulations against the cost of those new regulations to consumers.

I ask that the members of Farmers' Electric continue to follow the progress of energy issues and how decisions being made at EPA will impact the cost of all goods and services used each day, including the monthly electric bill.

To date, over 450 members have signed on to the national "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. Originally designed to focus on legislative activity and keep the message of affordability for consumers as a primary focus for our congressional delegation, efforts now include engaging agencies at the regulatory level. Additional information can be found at www.Action.coop. By participating in our national consumer-action campaign, our national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will continue to send up-to-date and relevant messages to members of congress as the debate continues and engage directly with EPA. I hope readers will take a few minutes to look at the website and consider lending their "voice" to the debate!

Until Next Month,




Youth Tour 2014!

In 2014, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors on the Government inAction Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Please call 1-800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity!

Poles Being Treated In Your Area

Continuing through this month and into late November or early December, *GLS, Ground Line Services* out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing and treating poles for Farmers' Electric, (FEC) in and around the Santa Rosa, New Mexico portions of the service area.

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.

Highlight Business of the Month!

Comet II

1257 Hist. Rt 66
Santa Rosa, NM .
(575) 472-3663



***Deal: 5% Off Total Ticket**

To learn more about how your business can benefit from becoming a Co-op Connections partner or to **request a card**, call the Co-op today at 800-445-8541. To view all the local, regional, and national deals, visit www.fecnm.org.

**Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.*

Scholarship Applications Available Now...

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Fort Sumner, or Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 762-4466 or (800) 445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 3, 2014! Contact Your Guidance Counselor Or Our Office Today!

There are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Student - Non-Traditional Student Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from the FEC website at www.fecnm.org.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals. Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2013, the foundation has awarded 935 scholarships totaling \$618,880.00.

ATTENTION: IRRIGATION CONSUMERS SUBJECT: IRRIGATION ANNUAL MINIMUM CHARGES

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative, based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account, please contact the Cooperative's billing department at 762-4466 or 1-800-445-8541.

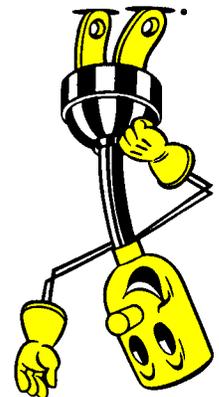
Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2013. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2013, through March 15, 2014, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2013. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2013, por el 15 de marzo de 2014, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

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