

Spotlight

June 2023



Stay Safe while Spending Time Outdoors

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great (and safe) summer.

Pools and hot tubs

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for

lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

Boating and swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water

can cause electric shock drowning.

While recreating

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year.* Nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities — 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the

Continued on back

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

April 2023 Board Meeting Highlights



Monthly Reports:

The Operations Manager reported that the order has been finalized for a new line truck in 2024. The order had to be made early due to supply chain issues. It was also reported that we are currently in the process of hiring two temporary workers.

Zielies continues to clear rights-of-way in the Connorsville and Rock Falls areas and PUSH has begun underground work for the year. Operations also met with the engineers at Power Systems Engineering to discuss a system study. These are done regularly to determine what projects need doing to keep the system healthy.

The Director of Engagement discussed the Operation Round Up grants awarded in the first quarter of 2023: Durand Fire (funds towards a new tender), Elk Mound Fire (Nomex hoods), Sand Creek Fire (turnout gear), the Village of Elk Mound (AED for the park), and Prairie Farm FCCLA (funds to deliver donations to Soldier Angels). An update on Annual Meeting preparation was also given and directors were given a chance to sign up to present scholarships at banquets for students in the coming weeks. It was also noted that the RotaryFeeds event that staff participated in netted over 10,360 meals packaged for those in need. The meals will be staying in Dunn County, and will be delivered to the Stepping Stones Food Pantry.

The CFO reported that year-to-date kWh sales are down about 2.44%. During the financial discussion, the board also approved the capital credit discount rate at 4.7%; this is down from 4.82% last year and will slightly increase

estate payments. The board also approved the 2022 margins in the amount of \$2,161,662.88. This will be returned to members, past and present, in October.

The CEO/General Manager reported that the cooperative made it through another round in the NRECA GRIP grant process and should find out this summer whether the system reliability project will be funded. The cooperative applied for a grant that would help fund the addition of collectors and routers (infrastructure important in relaying system information back to the cooperative) to the DEC system. A second NRECA grant for partial funding for a new load management system has made it through the first of several rounds of qualifications as well.

The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the March 2023 Board meeting
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.
- Update to Policy 131: Communication Devices
- 2022 Margin Allocation
- 2023 Capital Credit discount rate

Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly governance video that discussed Filling Board Vacancies

beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

During a storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

When playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care

of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

Releasing balloons

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with metallic balloons. If they are released or accidentally let go and get caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, be careful during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release

balloons in wide-open areas that are far from overhead power lines and airports.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

**Analysis of lightning-related deaths in the U.S., 2006–2021*

CHECK THE WEATHER

BEFORE YOU GO

From 2006 through 2021, 446 people were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S. Nearly two-thirds of the deaths happened while people were enjoying outdoor leisure activities such as fishing, camping and running.

June, July and August are the peak months for lightning across the U.S. More than 72% of lightning deaths occurred in these months, with Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than any other day of the week.

Lightning often strikes away from heavy rain; it can happen up to 10 miles away from rainfall. To prevent lightning-related tragedies, when thunder roars, go indoors.

Source: National Lightning Safety Council

More Than 72% of Lightning Fatalities Occur From June Through August

