



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

TAKE TIME TO REAP A SAFE HARVEST

It's just about that time of year again when it gets a bit colder out, the trees start to turn brilliant colors, and summer turns to fall. It's also that time of year that harvest season begins in earnest. The following is an article I came across from Safe Electricity

that talks about electrical and farm safety, specifically around harvest time. Please take a few minutes to read these life-saving tips.

Harvest can be an exciting and exhausting time—the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

“Things people see every day can fade from view and in the busyness of harvest time, it's easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead,” said Richard McCracken of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “But failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight.”

Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine

clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines—above, below, and to the side—a 360-degree rule.

“Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet,” said Bob Aherin, PhD, CSP & University of Illinois professor and agricultural safety & health program leader. “Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Also use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck.”

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any

equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line:

Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.

“If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Aherin said. “Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.”

If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury.

For more information on farm electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of creating a safer, smarter world.





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Students explore the COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Clark Electric Cooperative sponsored two students to this year's 54th Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), held at UW-River Falls July 26–28. They joined more than 130 students from cooperatives throughout Wisconsin to learn about the cooperative business model and improve their leadership skills.

Mariah Marcott of Abbotsford and Brady Coulthard from Neillsville represented Clark Electric at this year's conference. John Slipek, FFA advisor at Abbotsford High School, accompanied the students as a chaperone. YLC is designed to provide today's youth with stronger leadership and team-building



Mariah Marcott and Brady Coulthard

skills, as well as a broader understanding of electric cooperatives.

Clark Electric's Brady Coulthard was one of six students who were elected to the 2017–18 Youth Board, which is tasked with planning and helping to run next year's program. These officers will also have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., next spring.

Through a mix of challenging team-building activities, participants were exposed to a variety of real-life issues and given the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. They also took part in sessions focused on the importance of setting

"I really enjoyed the conference. They focused on leadership skills that will help me to have more confidence in the future. The motivational speakers and hypnotist were really interesting."

"We learned about the cooperative way of business and how to become a leader. The safety demonstrations and speakers were fun and interesting. There were students from all around the area and we had the opportunity to meet new friends."

"This was a great experience. It was fun to stay in the college dorm and be included in the workshops and presentations."

These are a few of the comments received from the students who represented CEC.

goals; how determination, hard work, and persistence pay off; and how to step up as a leader whether you are in a leadership position or not. The students also established relationships with other teens from across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and UW-River Falls have co-sponsored this event for 54 years to demonstrate to high school students the basics of cooperatives and how they can apply the ideals and philosophies of cooperation directly to their lives.

Delegates left the conference with valuable leadership skills they can use both in school and in their community activities. Each spring Clark Electric Cooperative contacts schools in our service area asking for students to represent the cooperative at the Youth Leadership Congress. This is a great opportunity for students entering 10th or 11th grade.



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SAFETY FIRST, ALWAYS: Linemen practice pole-top rescue

Safety First, Always is the motto linemen live by. Linemen work in a very hazardous profession. They work around large equipment, high in the air, on and around high-voltage equipment, in all kinds of weather conditions, both day and night. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, utility line-work is among the nation's top 10 most hazardous professions.

Clark Electric Cooperative participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Associations Rural Electric Achievement Program (RESAP) to help stress the importance of electrical safety.



One of the components of the program is monthly safety meetings. These safety meetings consist of classroom training as well as hands-on training and equipment testing. At least one meeting a year is dedicated to pole-top and basket rescue procedures.

The meetings consist of inspections of the trucks, proper use of personal pro-

TECTIVE equipment (PPE), proper traffic control, proper operating procedures, and an overall inspection of tools and equipment to ensure they are in good working condition. Safety First, Always is a good motto to live by for all of us.

Pictured here are the linemen performing pole-top rescue using a weight-

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