



By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

PLAYING IT SAFE ONLINE: PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones, and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms, and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identify, banking and health records, and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air, Halloween festivities, and Cooperative Month, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, I would like to use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders for your family.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, here are a few cybersecurity tips. According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

2. Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

3. Think before you click. Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted, or include unusual requests. Phishing techniques are becoming more and more sophisticated.

4. Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.



For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on, that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.



CONGRATULATIONS, DIRECTOR JICINSKY

Clark Electric Cooperative director Allen Jicinsky will be a new face on the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) Board of Directors once the board is officially seated at the annual meeting in November. Jicinsky was elected to fill the District 4 director-director position currently held by WECA board president David Hischke, who has reached his term limit.

Jicinsky is a retired contractor and a lifelong resident of Spencer. He has served on the board of Clark Electric for 10 years.

"I've always been very interested in legislative issues, and I wanted to be more involved. It's amazing how many things we learn, being involved with the local electric cooperative," Allen told WECA's *Condenser*.

Congratulations, Allen, and thank you for your commitment to and representation of the members at Clark Electric Cooperative.

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS...

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 linework is among the nation's top 10 most hazardous professions.

Clark Electric Cooperative participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 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 rescue procedures.

The meetings consist of inspections of the trucks, proper use of personal protective 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 at right is one of our linemen performing pole-top rescue using a weighted, life-sized training prop.



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY & Kick-off to Cooperative Month



A FREE Pancake, Egg & Sausage Breakfast

**Saturday,
September 23**

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the
Clark Electric headquarters,
just west of Greenwood on CTH G

- **"Take Back" Initiative 7-11 a.m.**
Bring your unused, controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications in their original containers to be dropped off—free, with no questions asked. *Questions? Clark County Sheriff's Department at 715-743-3157.*
- **Food Drive for Local Food Pantries**
- **Activities for Kids of All Ages**
Pumpkins, Crafts for Kids, Giant Inflatables
- **Greenwood Fire & EMS**
will provide free blood pressure testing.
- **Marshfield Medical Center & Clark County Health Department**
will be here to provide community health information— free of charge.

Clark Electric Cooperative

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715-267-6188 • 800-272-6188

River Country Co-op

331 Industrial Ave.,
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STUDENTS EXPLORE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE AT YLC

Clark Electric student elected to 2022-23 Youth Board

Clark Electric Cooperative sponsored three students to this year’s 60th Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) at University of Wisconsin–Stout July 11–13. They joined 73 high school students representing 15 Wisconsin electric cooperatives. During the three-day event, students learned about the electric cooperative model and leadership skills with an emphasis on the 7 Cooperative Principles.

The students were given the opportunity to meet new friends through challenging team-building activities, examine and discuss a variety of real-life issues, and identify and explore their leadership potential. They also took part in sessions focused on the importance of setting goals and how determination, hard work, and persistence pay off, and how to step up to be a leader whether you are in a leadership position or not.

Presentations included guest speaker Green Bay Packer Hall of Famer Gilbert “The Gravedigger” Brown, a motivational team-building session by Craig Hiller, a safe driving presentation, etiquette dinner, hypnotist performance, and a presentation about cooperative careers from Beth Knudson, NRECA youth programs and training manager.

Students also have the opportunity to run for a seat on the



Clark Electric sponsored member students (left to right) Devon, Jonah, and Jackson to this year’s Youth Leadership Conference.

WECA Youth Board. Clark Electric’s representative Jonah was elected by his peers as an alternate to the board.

“Coming into the YLC I didn’t expect much other than learning about cooperatives and maybe making a few friends,” Jonah said. “After two former YLC board members spoke about where the experience took them and where they are now, I realized how far the opportunity I had could take me. I decided to run for the youth board to help educate my peers about cooperatives and see where I could go. After I was elected to the board, it hit me that what I had accomplished would forever be a part of my story, and that I had a chance to do something great. I enjoyed the chance to meet new people and get out of my comfort zone, cold approaching people and trying to get their opinion. What I accomplished at YLC will leave me forever grateful for the opportunity my co-op gave me.”

The delegates left the conference with valuable leadership skills they can use both in school and in their communities.

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.

Left: Jonah with motivational speaker Craig Hillier. Below left: Devon with Green Bay Packer great Gilbert “The Gravedigger” Brown. Below: 2022-23 YLC attendees pause for a group photo.



MAKE TIME FOR SAFETY

AVOID HAZARDS WITH OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Fall harvest is the most likely time of year for farm-related accidents and fatalities. The number one factor in electrocution on the farm is an auger that hits a power line when being moved. Be aware of your surroundings and look up often.

Safe Electricity offers the following harvest safety tips:

1. Check the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
2. Be aware of the location of power poles and lines, including field entry and exit points, and plan a safe equipment route.
3. Always keep a minimum 10-foot safety radius around an electric line.
4. Use a spotter when moving tall loads near electrical lines.
5. Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving equipment.
6. Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
7. Know what to do if your equipment does make contact with a power line. It's almost always safest staying in the cab. Call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait until the electric utility says it's safe to get down.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy




Clark Electric
Cooperative's office
will be closed Monday,
September 4, in
observance of Labor Day.

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Clark Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.