

# Manager's Report



By: Chet McWhorter

Cuming County

One of the reasons that I love working in public power is that we are part of the community. CCPPD has been to nearly every school and many fire departments to share the potential hazards of electricity within the past year. We utilize a high voltage demonstration trailer and a smaller demonstration board that operates at 7200 Volts, the same voltage as our distribution system. We have had the opportunity to reach young children and teach them early about the hazards of electricity and how truly dangerous it can be. We also have been present at the fair and at Ag Appreciation and several other events to educate and try to prevent tragedy. As a lineman, one of my favorite tasks was to

number of incidents that occur involving CCPD poles and the public. It's troubling because of the massive potential for serious or fatal



injury surrounding these incidents. With the ever-increasing size of equipment, height of augers, and speed of vehicles it is understandable that more incidents might occur, but just because it is understandable does not mean we should accept it. To bring more attention to this issue, there are a few photos accompanying this article and I beg each of you to look them over and consider the hazards.

The first thing to do should you come upon an accident scene or make contact with poles,

wires, or enclosures yourself while driving any equipment or vehicle is to call 911 and/or CCPPD. We want to know even if the pole is still standing as it may be damaged and fall later and hurt someone else. Stay in

participate in these demonstrations, especially for the kids. I know the lineman at CCPPD have a lot of fun offering this training as well. Unfortunately, no matter how hard we try to avoid incidents involving the public and our lines, they still occur.

The most troubling thing that I have encountered since my arrival at CCPPD is the

the equipment or vehicle unless there is a fire. Electric voltage will disperse in ripples away from the point where electricity is going to ground, and anyone crossing the area or touching the wires, could be severely or fatally injured. People inside the vehicle in such an accident are safe, because they are not the path to ground. So, if there is a fire, hop away with

*Continued on Page 4...*

Thank You

to everyone that took time to attend our 80th celebrations. We traveled to Bancroft, Beemer, Dodge & had our last celebration at our office. It was so much fun each day and we appreciate all of our customers and friends that were able to come and celebrate with us!

# 101

# easy ways to save energy and money

## Top 10 tips

Here are the top ten things that any good energy saver should do first.

1. Replace any light-bulb, especially ones that are on more than one hour per day, with an LED bulb.
2. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out during summer.
3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers, and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use.
4. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations, including telephone, electric, cable, gas, water spigots and dryer vents.
5. Change heating and cooling system air filters monthly.
6. Use the dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.
7. Keep your garage door down. A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.
8. Set the water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
9. Make sure the dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.
10. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight.

## LIGHTING



Traditional lighting can amount to 11 percent of your monthly energy use. Energy-saving light-bulbs can slice lighting costs by 75 percent.

11. Replace outdoor lighting with equivalent outdoor-rated LED bulbs. LEDs work well in cold weather.
12. Replace fluorescent tube lamps with LED-equivalent tube bulbs.
13. Use outdoor security lights with a photocell and/or a motion sensor.
14. Turn off unnecessary lighting,

especially when you leave a room.

## ELECTRONICS



These plug loads around the home can add up to 8-15 percent of monthly energy use.

15. Turn off computers, monitors and printers when not in use.
16. When buying a new computer, select an EnergyStar® model. Consider buying a laptop, as it uses less energy than a comparable desktop.
17. Turn off or unplug large-screen TVs when not in use.
18. Check for energy-saving settings on flat-panel TVs, such as automatic brightness control and a power-saving sleep mode.
19. Request an EnergyStar® box from your cable or satellite TV provider.
20. Turn off stereos and radios when not in use.
21. Enable the auto power-down feature on gaming consoles.
22. Use energy-saving modes or automatic sleep functions on electronics.
23. Remember to turn off and unplug hair dryers and irons.
24. Make sure electric blankets and mattress pads are turned off in the morning.
25. Ensure all new appliances, electronics and lights are Energy Star® labeled.

26. Turn off pool pumps and heaters when the pool's not in use.
27. Verify livestock water tanks heaters are off when not needed.
28. Make sure heat tape on pipes is off when not needed.
29. Unplug battery chargers when not needed.

## KITCHEN



The kitchen is responsible for 15-20 percent of your monthly energy use, including appliances and refrigeration.

30. Turn off coffee-makers not in use.
31. Use the refrigerator's anti-sweat feature only if necessary.
32. Switch your refrigerator's power-saver switch to "on".
33. Clean refrigerator coils annually.
34. If it's not frost-free, regularly defrost refrigerator or freezer to avoid ice build-up.
35. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34-37 degrees and freezer temperature to 0-5 degrees.
36. Unplug unused refrigerators or freezers. Recycle them if you don't need them.
37. Use microwave for cooking when possible.
38. On the range or cooktop, use pot lids to help food cook faster.
39. If you're heating water on the cooktop, use cold tap water instead of hot.
40. Remember to use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking. Turn it off after cooking.
41. Use a slow-cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove.
42. Scrape dirty dishes before putting them into the dishwasher.
43. Use cold water for garbage disposal.
44. Only run dishwasher when full.

## WATER HEATING

Water heating can reach 12 percent of your annual energy use.



45. For households with one or two members, a 115-degree temperature setting may work fine.
46. Install a water heater wrap (also known as a water heater blanket).
47. Drain 1-2 gallons from bottom of water heater each year to reduce sediment build up.
48. Install heat traps on hot and cold water lines when it's time to replace your water heater.
49. Insulate exposed hot water lines.
50. Take 5- to 7-minute showers.

Many of these tips won't cost you a lot to implement, but they'll save you plenty on your electric bill!

More ideas can be found on [www.touchstoneenergy.com](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com)

- 51. Install water-saving showerheads.
- 52. Fix dripping faucets.
- 53. Don't let the water run while you're shaving or brushing your teeth.

## LAUNDRY

**Laundry can use 5-9 percent of your monthly energy.**

- 54. Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.
- 55. Only do full laundry loads.
- 56. If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size.
- 57. Always use a cold-water rinse.
- 58. Use bath towels multiple times before washing them.
- 59. Clean dryer's lint trap before each load.
- 60. Make sure the dryer's outdoor exhaust door is not blocked or clogged.
- 61. Verify that the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the inside wall.
- 62. Check that the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to dryer.
- 63. Minimize clothes drying time by using the dryer's auto-moisture sensor.
- 64. Dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in the dryer from the last load.
- 65. In hot weather, avoid running the dryer during the day.
- 66. Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer: an old-fashioned clothesline.

## HEATING AND COOLING

**Heating and air-conditioning are usually the largest loads in a home and are responsible for 40-50 percent of your annual energy spending.**

- 67. Set thermostats to 78 degrees in summer, and 68 degrees in winter.
- 68. Install a smart, programmable thermostat.
- 69. During summer, run ceiling fans on medium, blowing down; during winter, run ceiling fans on low, blow-

ing up.

- 70. Turn off ceiling fans when leaving the room. Fans cool people, not rooms.
- 71. When installing new air filters, make sure they're facing in the direction of airflow (look for an arrow on side of filter.)
- 72. When heating or cooling, keep windows shut and locked.
- 73. Insulate electric wall outlets and wall switches with foam pads.
- 74. Caulk along baseboards with a clear sealant.
- 75. Caulk around plumbing penetrations that come through walls beneath bathroom and kitchen sinks.
- 76. Caulk electrical wire penetrations at the top of the interior walls in the attic.
- 77. Make sure drapes and shades are open during the day to catch free solar heat in winter.
- 78. In winter, close shades and drapes at night to keep in heat. In summer, close shades and drapes during the day to keep out warm sunlight.
- 79. Ensure attic access door or hatch closes tightly and is insulated.
- 80. Make sure insulation in your attic doesn't block soffit vents.
- 81. Don't close off unused rooms that are conditioned by forced-air systems.
- 82. Don't close supply air registers.
- 83. Check to be sure return air grills are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
- 84. Ensure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped and use door sweeps.
- 85. Make sure outside soffit vents are not blocked.
- 86. Use a thermostat to control power attic ventilators so they don't draw conditioned air from your home.
- 87. Have your heating and cooling system services once per year by a certified technician.
- 88. Monitor your home's humidity in the summer. If it consistently stays in the 60 percent range or higher, ask a

- heating and cooling technician about lowering your central air-conditioning unit's indoor fan speed.
- 89. Ensure window air-conditioning units are weather-stripped. Remove the units in the winter.
- 90. Remove and clean window air-conditioner filter monthly.
- 91. Close fresh-air vents on window air-conditioning units.
- 92. Use heavy-duty, clear sheets of plastic sealed tightly on the inside of windows to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home during the winter. Alternately, install clear plastic insulating kits inside.
- 93. Minimize use of electric space heaters. Turn off space heaters when leaving the room.
- 94. Ensure your outdoor heat pump/air-conditioning unit is kept clean and free of debris.
- 95. When a fire's burning in the fireplace, turn down your heating system thermostat a few degrees.
- 96. When using the fireplace, open the outside air vent or open the nearest window slightly.
- 97. Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- 98. Ensure rugs, drapes or furniture don't block floor registers.
- 99. Caulk around storm windows and basement windows.
- 100. Turn off bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans 15 minutes after the job is complete - or install timers on bathroom ventilation fans.
- 101. For summer, plant trees and shrubs to provide shade on the east, south and west sides of your home. For winter, evergreen trees and shrubs can provide a windbreak on the north and west sides.





## CCPPD Lineman Intern

Luke Renter is Cuming County Public Power District's intern for the summer of 2017.



He is currently in the Utility Line Program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. He has completed his first year and will continue his second year next fall. Luke is from Snyder, Nebraska.

He said he wanted to become a lineman to help people in a time of need. The challenge of getting someone's power back on is rewarding. He also truly enjoys working in the outdoors.

Outside of electricity, Luke enjoys outdoor activities. He likes going fishing, hunting and truck pulling.

Please help us welcome Luke Renter to CCPPD.

## Manager's Report Cont.

...continued from Page 1

your feet as close together as possible to reduce the exposure to the ripples of voltage that could be pulsing through the soil. Never assume that because a wire is laying on the ground that it is de-energized. The equipment that operates to clear lines when they are on the ground or broken isn't infallible.

It's important to remember that our linemen who have years of training to work on electrical lines will not touch wires with their bare hands or any part of their body without testing them as de-energized and effectively grounding them to bring them to a safe potential. If you see the linemen out working on the lines, most of the time they are in an insulated bucket truck and are wearing insulated rubber gloves and sleeves that are tested monthly and inspected before each use to ensure their safety. If they come to the scene of your accident, they are likely to tell you to stay put while they go and make sure the line is de-energized and place grounds on the line so that the rescuers can safely enter the scene to help you.

Safety is a core value of all of us at CCPPD. This value is not limited to the employees of CCPPD. Anyone travelling through or living in our service territory deserves to be safe. It is my hope that someone reading this will one day be saved from a tragedy or will save another from a tragedy by following the advice laid out. As it has been said, "Electricity is an ever-patient force waiting to remind the unwary." Please be aware of your surroundings and be cautious when you're near power poles, lines, or any other related equipment. Thank for reading and stay safe!



**Love the work  
Respect the work**

## Tip of the Month

Tip of the Month

Let the sun work for you!  
Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light.  
Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### CCPPD BOARD MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the office.

Notice of times and date changes are published monthly.

### CCPPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greg Strehle, President.....402-380-3659  
Leroy Mostek, Vice Pres.....402-528-3872  
Dennis Weiler, Sec.....402-372-2713  
Ed Kaup, Treasurer.....402-372-2966  
Fred Schneider.....402-528-3683  
Danny Kluthe.....402-693-2833