

Right-of-way Management

Vegetation-control programs keep power flowing safely to homes

Trees may seem harmless on a calm, sunny day. But add a bit of wind or ice on a stormy night, and those towering pillars may threaten your home's electric supply.

Regular trimming of trees and control of brush along power lines helps cut down on the number of outages. Electricity interruptions can occur when branches break and fall across power lines or when entire trees tumble onto power lines. When strong winds blow, limbs growing too close to power lines may sway and touch wires.

Cuming County Public Power District respects your property and decides how to trim trees based on the amount of clearance needed around wires, voltage coursing through lines, the tree's growth rate and how frequently trimming along the line is performed.



Sometimes momentary power disruptions (commonly called "blinks" or "blips") are caused by trees hitting the power lines and they can damage computers and other sensitive electronic equipment and leave digital clocks flashing. And then there's arcing - when electricity uses a nearby tree as a path to the ground. That action poses hazards to anyone in the vicinity and could spark a fire.

To fight these potential problems, utilities wage a nev-

er-ending war. CCPPD linemen work year-round to clear growth away from power lines as a way of reducing potential outages and safety risks. The linemen try to figure out where the outages could occur and the maintenance needed so there are less outages later on.

CCPPD also incorporates preventative maintenance to reduce outages such as tree trimming (as mentioned above), patrolling lines, pole testing, breaker maintenance, animal guards, and the use of T2 wire which helps in ice storms to prevent build-up on the line.

If tree trimming is needed in your area or you have any questions or concerns on outages please contact the CCPPD office at 402-372-2463.



Partners in Progress

The West Point Chamber of Commerce Partners in Progress Banquet was February 17, 2019. The evening was filled with awards and new board members taking on new positions. CCPPD General Manager, Chet McWhorter, received a plaque (picture on right) for fulfilling his time on the West Point Chamber of Commerce Board. He was elected in 2015 and served on the Executive Committee as 2nd Vice President, then Vice President, President and a year as a Past President. His term ended in February of 2019. We want to thank Chet for putting his time and energy into being a pivotal person on this important board.

Chet McWhorter 4 Years WP Chamber Board



Understanding Step & Touch Potential

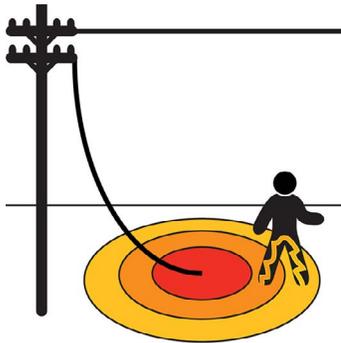
Summer storm season is coming and with summer storms come downed wires, broken poles, and trees and branches that sometimes make contact with energized overhead conductors. This article covers some of the fundamental hazards of downed energized power lines, and the unseen hazard of step and touch potential.

What is Step and Touch Potential?

To understand step and touch potential, we first need to understand how energy dissipates across conductive objects. During broken pole or downed wire conditions, some really good conductors exist that provide a path to ground including metal fences, wet soil and puddles. Other conductors exist that may not be so good, yet still allow current to travel to ground, such as trees, wood fences and utility poles. Wood is typically thought of as an insulator, but wet wood will conduct electric current.

The dissipation of voltage from a grounded power line - or from the grounded end of an energized grounded object - is called the ground potential gradient. Voltage drops associated with this dissipation of voltage are called ground potentials. The voltage decreases rapidly with increasing distance from the grounded end of the downed power line.

Another way of describing this is the example of a stone dropped in a pond. The stone creates ripples that eventually fade as they move from the center. Voltage is highest at the source and fades as the energy moves across the ground.



Step Potential

When current is flowing from an overhead power line through a chain-link fence to the earth, a high-voltage condition is created and a voltage gradient will occur based on the resistivity of the soil, resulting in a voltage difference - also known as a potential difference - between two points on the ground. This is called a step potential as it can cause voltage difference between a person's feet.

Touch Potential

Touch potential is the voltage between any two points on a person's body - hand to hand, shoulder to back, elbow to hip, hand to foot and so on. For example, if an overhead power line falls on a car, and person touches that

car, current could pass from the energized car through the person to the ground.



When an energized line makes contact with ground, the earth becomes energized, and the voltage dissipates in concentric circles away from the initial contact point.

**Never walk or run from a downed power line
HOP or SHUFFLE to safety**

How to Protect Yourself

During storm conditions, the first thing to remember is that power lines may not be where they should be. Keep in mind these basic storm safety rules found in the OSHA Fact Sheet "Working Safely Around Downed Electric Wires"

- Do not assume that a downed power line is safe simply because it is on the ground or it is not sparking.
- Do not assume that all coated, weatherproof or insulated wire is just telephone, television or fiber-optic cable.
- Low-hanging wires still have voltage potential even if they are not touching the ground, so don't touch them. Assume everything is energized until the linemen can de-energize the line.
- Never go near a downed or fallen electric power line. Always assume that it is energized. Touching it could be fatal.
- Electricity can spread outward through the ground in a circular shape from the point of contact. As you move away from the center, large differences in voltages can be created.
- Never drive over downed power lines. Assume that they are energized. And, even if they are not, downed lines can become entangled in your equipment or vehicle.
- If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, remain calm and do not get out unless the vehicle is on fire. If possible, call for help.
- If you must exit any equipment because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock. Be careful to maintain your balance.

Any questions or concerns, please call Cuming County Public Power District at 402-372-2463.

Flooding March 2019

These are flood pictures from around the CCPPD service territory. We had outages and some damage to poles, but overall we were lucky. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people deeply affected from the floods and blizzards across many midwestern states.



NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

July 8 - 12, 2019

High school students, grades 9 - 11
Nebraska State 4-H Camp - Halsey, Neb.

←—————→
If you are interested in applying for this all-expense paid camp, complete the application form and return it to Nicki White at Cuming County Public Power District

YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Age _____ Current Grade _____

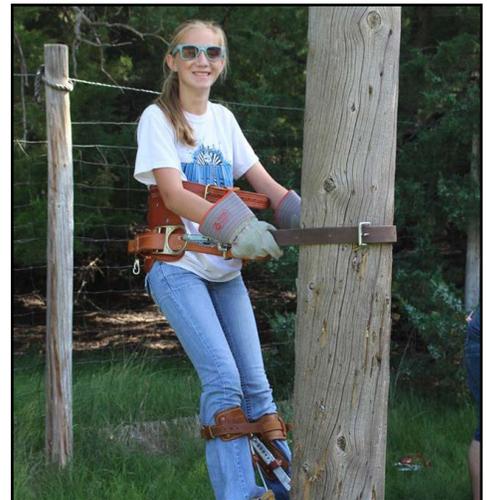
Address _____

Phone number (____) _____

City _____ State _____

Name of parents _____

Name of your sponsoring rural electric system
Cuming County Public Power District



Featured CCPPD Employee

Jess Hunke



Jess Hunke started at Cuming County Public Power District as a Groundman on March 29, 2010. He became an Apprentice Lineman a few years later then worked the required hours and completed the testing to

achieve his Journeyman Lineman status on June 17, 2014.

Jess received his Utility Lineman degree from Metro Community College in Omaha and acquired an Associates Degree in Business Marketing from Southeast Community College in Lincoln.



Jess and his wife Crystal live in Snyder, Nebraska. They have two daughters: Reagan and Paisley.

Outside of work Jess enjoys farming, hunting, spending time outdoors and being with family.

Please help us thank Jess for his dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

We our linemen!



National Lineman Appreciation Day - April 8, 2019
When The Lights Go Out - So Do They!



Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/CCPPD](https://www.facebook.com/CCPPD)
Twitter: @CumingCountyPPD
Blog: ccppd.blogspot.com

Online billpay, tips to save on your electric bill, newsletters, and so much more on our website

Please visit our website at www.ccppd.com
Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCPPD office



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402-380-3659



Leroy Mostek, Vice President
402-528-3872



Dennis Weiler, Secretary
402-372-2713



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