



[GCEA News]

SUMMERTIME SAFETY

DAN MCDONOUGH || MEMBER SERVICES SUPERVISOR AND SAFETY DIRECTOR



It's springtime again, and another busy and fast summer is on the way. I am reminded that one of our former employees always said, "Around here, it is always winter or summer." It seems to me that he was right.

With the arrival of summer, many folks typically have a list of projects that needs to be completed before the season ends. This list may involve potential contact with electric utility equipment, and that can create a dangerous situation. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to pay attention to where you are and what you are doing around electricity so that you stay safe. Here are a few examples of situations that come to mind.

If you irrigate your lawn with an electric water pump, putting that electric water pump in the ditch this summer and hooking up the wiring can lead to danger. Be sure to keep the electrical breaker off until wiring is complete and you are in the clear, then the breaker can be turned on. Remember, electricity and water do not mix.

If you take a notion to remove old branches and leaves from your roof this spring or if you plan to install a roof antenna, be mindful of the electric wiring that brings service into your home. Overhead service wires carry high voltage, and contact with ladders, hand tools, antennas or your body must be avoided. Electrical contact can cause severe burns and falls. In some cases, it can be fatal. Always know where you are, and remember to look up for safety.


Many residences and businesses receive electric service from electric lines that are buried underground. These wires also carry high voltage and can be deadly if


precautions are not taken. This means that if you or someone you know is thinking about building a fence that requires setting posts, it is extremely important to have the electric line located to avoid contact with digging tools. To be safe, please call 800-922-1987 and request an underground line locate. Remember, digging bars, shovels, posthole digging equipment and electricity are a dangerous combination. Accidental contact with high-voltage underground lines can be deadly.


Spring and summer are also that time of year when we enjoy outside activities that make us forget about the cold winter that we just went through. Kite flying comes to mind, and yes, even fun things can be potentially dangerous when dealing with overhead power lines. The rule for safety is simple: Do not fly kites around overhead power lines. If you can see power lines from where you are planning to fly a kite, you are probably not far enough away. Be aware that kites will drift with the wind. Electricity always looks for the shortest path to ground, and moist or dirty kite strings can provide that path. Obviously, these are just a few things to consider as we work and enjoy our spring and summer season.


Gunnison County Electric Association is always available to talk about electrical safety and can present demonstrations that teach as well. Your rural electric cooperative is just a phone call away at 970-641-3520. As member-owners, you are always invited and encouraged to use this free and informative service. Electrical safety is everyone's business. Please be safe, and enjoy your summer.


May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety


- 

Never use electrical equipment near water and other liquids.
- 

Never use electrical cords that are frayed or damaged.
- 

Do not overload electrical outlets.
- 

Never use light bulbs that exceed the recommended wattage for any lighting unit or fixture.



KEEP YOUR CO-OP UP TO DATE

Please help us help you!

Attention GCEA member: It is important to keep your member information up to date so the member services team can ensure the best member service possible. Having your current information on file increases GCEA's ability to reach you with important information pertaining to your electric account.

Items to keep up to date:

- Adding someone to your account
- Phone numbers
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Bank account or credit card information

Contact member services at 970-641-3520 to update any outdated information.




Member Relations Supervisor Dan McDonough and Marketing and Communications Assistant Logann Long each won recent *Colorado Country Life* awards for their individual contributions to the October issue of *Colorado Country Life* magazine. Dan won first place for his article *What is RESAP?* and Logann won first place for best newsletter photo of lineman Dustin Cadwell performing a pole top rescue during a safety training last fall.

Congratulations!

★ ————— ★ ————— ★

GUNNISON COUNTY
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
78th Annual Meeting

TAKE A 
LOAD OFF

27 JUNE
2017

5 O'CLOCK DINNER & REGISTRATION **6** O'CLOCK BUSINESS MEETING

GCEA HEADQUARTERS
37250 W. HIGHWAY 50, GUNNISON, CO

**KICK UP YOUR
BOOTS &
STAY AWHILE!**

Members will receive
a camp stool and
coffee mug!

For more
information call
970-641-3520

2016 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.GCEA.COOP OR BY CALLING 970-641-3520

★ ————— ★ ————— ★

“Like us” on facebook



Check out our facebook page for events at GCEA, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more. “Like us” at Gunnison County Electric Association.



MARATHON WATER HEATER REBATE

A LIFETIME SOLUTION

Because the Marathon tank is warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home, it could be the last water heater you need to buy! And with its superior dependability and efficiency, Marathon truly can provide hot water for life.

GOING THE DISTANCE



- High efficiency
- Lifetime tank warranty
- Nonmetallic tank
- Easy installation and service

THE MOST ENERGY EFFICIENT IN ITS CLASS

PURCHASE YOUR MARATHON TODAY FROM GCEA — RECEIVE A \$70 REBATE!

GCEA OFFERS MEMBERS CHOICES

- FREE ENERGY AUDITS
- GREEN POWER PROGRAM
- REBATES ON APPLIANCES
- PAYMENT OPTIONS-
 - SMARTHUB
 - GCEA PREPAY PROGRAM
 - PAY BY PHONE
 - AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS
 - BUDGET BILLING
- & MANY MORE!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHOICES GCEA OFFERS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.GCEA.COOP

EXCITING NEWS!

MAKE A CHANGE WITH A LITTLE CHANGE!

Recently, GCEA cut its Green Power price by 50 percent!

GCEA offers members a choice to buy green power to offset their usage and support renewable energy for an additional cost of only 12 cents per 100 kilowatt-hour block!

The average home in our service area uses 700 kWhs per month. Seven blocks of green power adds only 84 cents to your power bill each month. You can also choose the 100-percent offset option and buy just enough green power to offset your actual usage each month.

GCEA offers a much lower price than other programs.

Join over 300 GCEA members in the Green Power program.

For more information on the Green Power program, please call GCEA at 970-641-3520.



Energy Efficiency Tips of the Month

The return of warm, sunny days means **line drying clothes outside** again to avoid paying the electric bill for running your clothes dryer.

Ceiling fans that rotate counterclockwise in the summer circulate air in your home. The air movement can make it feel up to 4 degrees cooler than the actual air temperature in the room.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff Hanggi — Crested Butte Working Foreman, 21 years

Vic Dean — Meter Reader / AMR Technician, 14 years

Jo Anne Bateman — Accounting Assistant, 7 years

Logann Long — Marketing and Communications Assistant, 3 years



Did you know?

SIX HOURS OF EACH YEAR

30 MINUTES OF EACH MONTH

CAUSES 46% OF GCEA'S WHOLESALE POWER BILL



IT'S CALLED A DEMAND CHARGE AND IT'S BASED ON THE HIGHEST 30 MINUTE PERIOD OF USAGE EACH MONTH.

75% OF THE TIME THAT 30 MINUTE PERIOD OCCURS WITHIN TWO HOURS AFTER SUNSET!

HOW TO CUT DOWN ON ENERGY DURING THE ON-PEAK HOURS:

CONSIDER INVESTING IN A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT. PROGRAM YOUR THERMOSTAT TO COME ON EARLY ENOUGH TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE WARM BEFORE 5 PM TO AVOID PEAK DEMAND TIMES

To learn more about the impacts of using electricity on-peak and how you can help us keep your rates down, please contact GCEA, at 970-641-3520.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2017

We at GCEA want to congratulate all the graduating students in our service territory!

GCEA CEO
MIKE MCBRIDE
PRESENTS

It isn't just about how much electricity you use - it's also about when you use it.

LEARN WHEN, AS A COMMUNITY, WE USE THE MOST ELECTRICITY AND WHAT THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IS. USING EXAMPLES, THIS PROGRAM WILL FOCUS ON THE BENEFITS OF SHIFTING SOME OF OUR ELECTRIC USE TO OFF-PEAK HOURS. WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION SUCH AS ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

MAY 17, 2017 AT 7 PM

GUNNISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

307 N WISCONSIN ST, GUNNISON, CO 81230

COLDHARBOR INSTITUTE
GUNNISON, COLORADO



Gunnison County Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

gunnison county
Libraries

connect • discover • imagine • learn

gunnison library • 307 N. Wisconsin - 970.641.3485
gunnisoncountylibraries.org