



Lyon-Coffey Events

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Don't Let Electrical Hazards Spook You

Halloween is one of the best times of the year for children and adults, too. Nonetheless, with decorative lights, fog machines, black lights and animatronics, this spooky holiday can be full of electrical hazards if you are not cautious. Check for electrical hazards to avoid the risk of fire or electrical shock. The following tips will help lessen the risk of injuries:

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed wires, broken or bare sockets, and loose connections.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords; instead use insulated staples.
- Always provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Keep walkways clear as masks can impair vision.
- Don't overload extension cords, circuit breakers or fuses.
- Turn out all lights and decorations before you go out or go to bed. Always have a fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.

Letter From The Manager: October is Cooperative Month

When it comes to making economic and charitable contributions to their communities, the nation's more than 900 electric cooperative businesses take a back seat to no other economic sector.

That's the inescapable conclusion from a collection of case studies assembled for the annual celebration of Co-op Month in October.

This past year we assisted Deer Trail, a farm implement company, in building a new facility just outside of Emporia. With the Lyon-Coffey's help, they were able to secure funding for part of the project through a Rural Economic Development loan.

As we pause to celebrate the role and accomplishments of the nation's cooperatives, their economic and charitable contributions cannot be overlooked. At a time of increasing concern about the national economy, co-ops are creating jobs, income and opportunity in their communities every day.

But that's not all co-ops do. They also have a strong commitment to the communities in which their members live and work. Every day, in every sector, through cash contributions and volunteerism, co-ops support local

causes ranging from education to the environment. Community involvement isn't just chance.

As member-owned enterprises, co-ops are owned largely by the people who live and work in the communities they serve. That gives us a different perspective from businesses owned by distant investors.

"Community is not just where we work; it's why we work," said Ray Hutson, Director of Member Services at Lyon-Coffey. "Cooperatives are motivated to serve their members, not outside investors. Doing that means we must also serve the communities in which our members live, work and play."

Hutson, along with every team member at Lyon-Coffey, understands that providing service to our members and our communities is why we are here.

For co-ops it's more personal. It's a critical part of where we work, what we do and why we do it. Perhaps the theme for National Co-op Month should be the same as ours here at your electric co-op, "Neighbors Serving Neighbors".



Scott Whittington

Harvest Safety: Look Up and Live

The rush to harvest can yield tragic results. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds injured in accidents involving power lines and electric equipment. Lyon-Coffey Electric urges farmers to be proactive in identifying potential safety hazards so that accidents can be prevented.

Things people see everyday can fade from view and in the busy-ness of harvest time, it's easy to forget about the power lines overhead. Failure to notice power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Remember to look up and around while working with tall equipment and extensions like augers. Everyone on the farm needs to be aware of the location of power lines and to keep equipment at least 10 feet away from them.

Take these steps for a safe harvest season:

- Know the location of power lines and keep equipment at least 10 feet away from them – above, below and to the side – a 360° rule.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level – under 14 feet – before moving or transporting them. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create



A primary line carrying 7,200 volts of electricity fell on this tractor when the driver came too close to the electrical pole in northeast Kansas.

an unexpected result.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in 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, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If a vehicle comes in contact with a power line, stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. If there is a threat of fire or other risk, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same

time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once safely away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and realizing nothing has happened, tried to get back on the equipment.



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