

September 2019



EnLIGHTening NEWS

Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming, and Colfax counties

Commitment to Zero



Electric utilities across the country can come in many different “colors, shapes and sizes.” This range of utilities span from serving urban areas to rural, coastal to mountainous terrain, for-profit and not-for-profit. The one thing that should always remain constant is the effort on safety.

Stanton County PPD has recently implemented a program called **Commitment to Zero**.

This program was designed by the national trade organization and it puts a strong emphasis on safety. The frequency of accidents is going down nationally but unfortunately, the severity has increased. We are striving for zero accidents. In our business, second chances are rare!

We work to maintain a strong safety culture as we construct and maintain powerlines in the District. However, we are not the only ones that work around those powerlines. We also want our customers and the general public to be safe around powerlines. I urge anyone that works remotely close to a powerline to make this same commitment. This includes farmers at harvest, construction workers digging and building around powerlines, or even painters that get near an

overhead line. A simple mindset of being aware of the lines around you may save your life. Also remember to call 811 before you dig. You just never know what may be buried below you!

Electricity has become a big part of our society and it is almost forgotten. It is important that we all take the extra time and make the **Commitment to Zero** contacts. It is a commitment that we make every single day, and hope that you will make it a commitment as well.



Chad Waldow
General Manager

Remember Electrical Safety This Harvest Season

In 2017, farmers ranked eighth in the list of the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics/U.S. Dept. of Labor. Unfortunately, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers rank right below other hazardous jobs such as logging, roofing, and steel work.

It is no wonder farmers make that list. As agriculturists are well-aware, many dangers are present in their long and arduous workdays.

Safe Electricity and Stanton County Public Power District, remind farmers that accidents related to power and electricity are also possible but in most cases they can be prevented. Especially during the busy harvest season, take the following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:



- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us right away.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Although harvest season is a time filled with tight deadlines and heightened work stress, take the time to consider electrical safety. It could save your life or the lives of others.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



EnergyWiseSM Incentives for 2019

RESIDENTIAL:

Heat Pump Water Heater -

- \$400 air source heat pump water heaters: with EF > 1.9.
- \$650 ground source heat pump water heaters; with EF > 2.8

High Efficiency Heat Pumps -

15-15.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF

16-17.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF

3 or more stages

18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF

Variable Capacity

Water/ground source

(contact SCPPD office for details)



\$400

\$800

\$800

\$1,200

\$1,200

Up to \$3,300

SMART Thermostat -

Primarily Electric Heat (Professionally installed) \$100

Primarily Electric Heat (Customer installed) \$75

Primarily Fossil-Fuel Heat (Professionally Installed) \$50

Primarily Fossil-Fuel Heat (Customer installed) \$25

Cooling System Tune-up -

\$40

Additional programs still available, see www.scppd.net for details

Dates to Keep in Mind

September: National Farm Safety and Health Month

September 2: Labor Day SCPPD office Closed

September 11: Patriot Day

September 23: First Day of Autumn

September 28: National Good Neighbor Day



Access Your Account On-Line

SmartHub can be used to review your usage, and find ways to save energy and save money!

You can find a link on our website: www.scppd.net.

To set up an account you just need your account number and the name listed on your bill. Check your usage history, track usage patterns & use this information to save on your electric bill!

If you do not want a SmartHub account but want to take advantage of the on-line payments, you can click on the "Pay Now" link on the SCPPD website.



Cyber Security Tips

Be Aware!

Scammers continue to target utility customers. Calls, emails and messages will claim that your electricity will be disconnected if you do not pay immediately.

If you receive a threat like this, please call the SCPPD office. We are happy to confirm the status of your service, and save you from potential financial loss.

Electrical Safety

The number of home fires increases during winter months. One of the causes of these fires is electrical malfunction.

Causes of electrical fires can include:

- Overloaded circuits
- Electrical faults
- Faulty wiring

Signs of electrical problems in a home include:

- Blown fuses
- Tripped circuits
- Flickering lights
- Warm, cracked, or sparking outlets.

Electrical arc faults occur when an electric current flows through an unplanned path. AFCIs can reduce the chance of electrical fires by sensing arcing conditions, distinguishing between normal and unintended arcing. When an abnormal or dangerous arc is detected, the AFCI de-energizes the circuit. There are different types of AFCIs available.

For installation and in order to determine which type is best for your home's safety, contact a professional electrician.

35,100 
 reported home fires*
 per year involve electrical
 or lighting issues. Use AFCIs
 to help protect your home.

*On average, per year, home structure fires between 2012 and 2016; Source: NFPA

Safe Electricity.org



Information about SCPPD

When you have an emergency, SCPPD people are standing by!

In the case of an outage:

- 1- Check your fuses and/or breakers to be sure they are working properly.
- 2 - If you have a double-throw switch, make sure it is in the correct position.
- 3 - Notice your neighbors; do they have power?

Checking these few things before you call SCPPD can help us determine the severity of the outage and therefore expedite the restoration.

Please be sure to give the name that is listed on the billing account and physical address of the outage when calling into the office.

Questions about your bill?

Please call SCPPD, 402-439-2228, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you have your meter serial number or customer account number. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Stanton County Public Power District
 807 Douglas Street, P.O. Box 319
 Stanton, NE 68779-0319**

Board of Directors with Board position

- John Gall..... President
- Robert Schellpeper..... Vice President
- Gary Koehlmoos..... Secretary
- Weldon Marotz..... Treasurer
- Jim Scherer..... Director
- Doug Oertwich..... Director

Manager
 Chad Waldow

For Outage Reporting or Emergency service

Call 1-877-439-2228.

Before 8 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m.

Call 1-877-439-2300.

**Communicate Electronically
 With SCPPD**

Internet: www.scppd.com

E-mail: scppd@scppd.net



It's the law!

**Call 811
 Before You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666

**"Diggers Hotline of Nebraska"
 Also www.ne-diggers.com**