



PREMA

September 2023

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Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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HARVEST TIME

Farmers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms. Electrical safety is one of the priorities during National Farm Safety and Health Week, typically observed the third week of September.

The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.

Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows, may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest. However, failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Most farmsteads could use a very careful overhead visual inspection of electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and pole guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.

However, today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended; and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed the height of power lines. A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. Don't take matters into your own hands. They may not be as high as they look. Always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line completely around it, whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it. A 53-year-old Michigan truck driver who was cleaning sugar beets out of his truck unknowingly raised the bed into a 4,800 volt overhead power line. As he stood in the wet field and touched the energized truck bed, he was fatally burned.

In addition to conducting a field survey of power lines to locate potential hazards, employers should obtain safety information from utility companies for the benefit of their workers.

Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and human contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm.

Lakeside Tower Project

The Alliance crew completed the work on the Lakeside tower site in July. They poured a couple of concrete pads for the propane tank and the standby generator. We extended our fence area which took a couple loads of rock to level the terrain out along with a couple more panels. All and all the project went smoothly and the finished job looks nice. With this addition it will ensure the communication in our truck radios and SCADA. Having communication at all times is one of our top safety concerns, therefore we are all about improving it any chance we get.

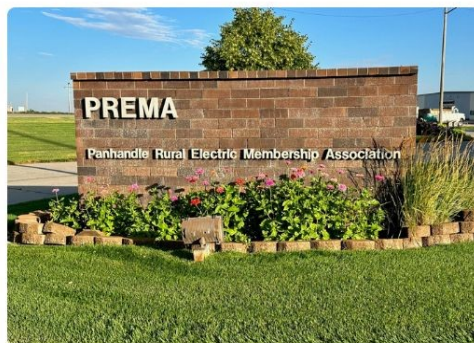


Blessings

These two hardworking ladies are the faces behind all the beautiful flowers here at the office in Alliance. Every year they bring life to a new color scheme. Just when you think they cannot outdo themselves from the year prior they do. We want to thank them for making this a brighter place to work.



Pictured above from L-R is Kathie Toedtli and Karel Essex





Notes From Load Management

All participants in Load Management can be controlled every day for the month of September. Groups will be controlled as needed. We do not anticipate control days to extend past September 15.

If you are an irrigator with PREMA and have not participated in Load Management in the past, information is available at www.prema.coop under the irrigation tab or by calling the office at 308-762-1311.



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