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PREMA

WNCC Friend of College Award



On behalf of the PREMA Board of Directors, General Manager Ryan Reiber, received the Western Nebraska Community College *Friends of the College* award at the WNCC Annual Alumni and Friends banquet. The *Friend of the College* award is presented to a person, business, or organization that has demonstrated commitment to educational advancement in the Nebraska Panhandle.

In the early 1990s PREMA started offering scholarships to local candidates to attend a powerline school knowing that locals would be more apt to stay with the company long term. Soon they realized it would be even better to have a powerline school nearby.

PREMA worked with Wheat Belt Public Power District to create an advisory committee of rural and municipal utility experts. This group toured several powerline schools in Eastern South Dakota and Eastern Nebraska in cooperation with officials from Western Nebraska Community College. The City of Alliance stepped up to provide land and a building. Following PREMA's lead, other utilities gave time, money, and equipment to the project. This ensured the beginning of a successful program in June 2006. Today, PREMA along with other rural and municipal electric providers are active in the WNCC Powerline Advisory Committee which supports and advises the Powerline Program.

PREMA's community service principal pledges to participate in programs and activities which foster the well-being and economic development of the communities in the service area. The 13-year-old WNCC Powerline Construction and Maintenance Technology program is proof of that commitment. To date, 199 powerline graduates have completed the program, seven of which have been hired by PREMA. PREMA, its board of directors, and employees have demonstrated support and commitment to the Nebraska Community College Association by providing an example to all industries of mutual benefit of industries partnering with colleges to fill service and employee needs.

Four Tips for Winter Safety

By Abby Berry

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

- 1. Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.
- 2. Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed *at least* three feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.
- 3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.
- 4. Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, *before* you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area *outside* your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

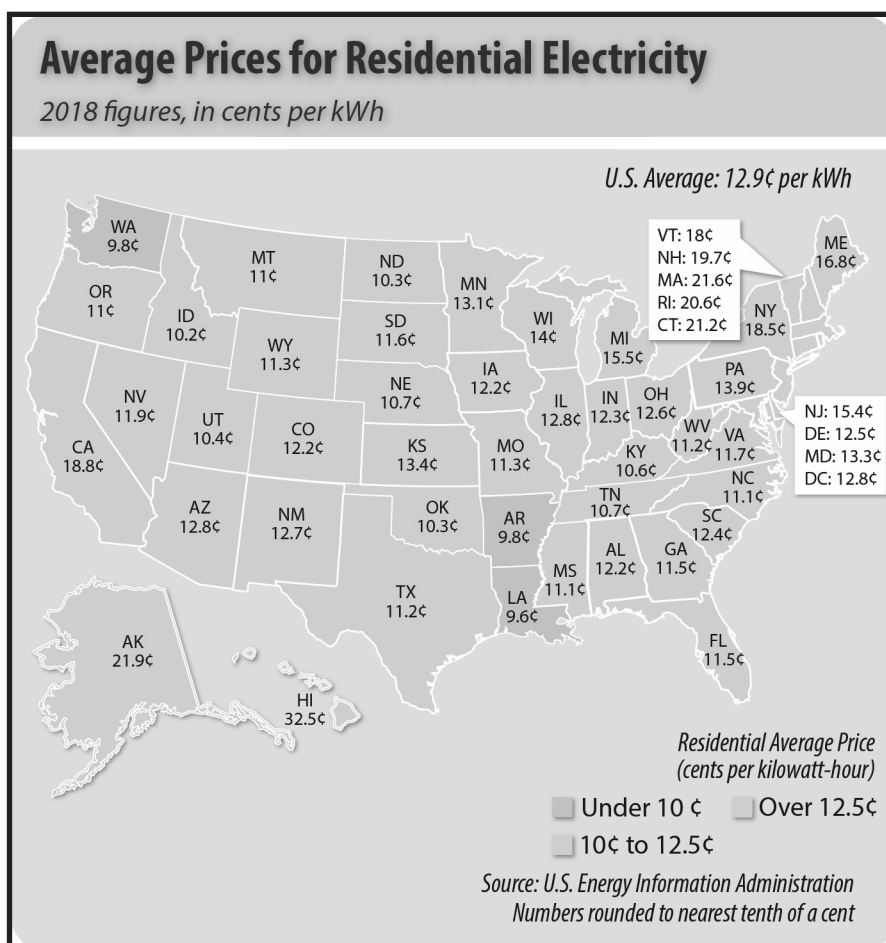
Notices

Capital Credit checks were mailed October 16, 2019. Numerous checks from 2018 and 2019 have not been cashed. If you are unable to locate your uncashed check, please send a request for a check re-issue to Allison at the PREMA office. Send an email to billing@prema.coop or mail to P.O. Box 677, Alliance, NE 69301. If you have any questions, please call Allison at 308-762-1311.

Reminder

If you will be making any changes to your irrigation arrangements, such as rentals, leasing, etc., it is important to make PREMA aware of these changes by April so the correct name and address will be billed. Also this is a great time to notify our office if your contact numbers have changed or if there are additional phone numbers that need to be added to your account. Please contact Allison at our office 308-762-1311. Thank you.

PREMA Scholarship Applications are due February 14th in the PREMA Office by 4:30pm.





Burton Anthony is pictured here with General Manager Ryan Reiber. Burton is being recognized for his 25 years of employment with PREMA. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

NOTES FROM LOAD MANAGEMENT

The 2020 irrigation season is fast approaching. The guideline letter for Load Management has been sent out. If you are an irrigator and have not received this letter, please contact the office. The deadline for Load Management signup is Friday March 13th.



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