

HARVEST SAFETY

During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low-light conditions, which enhances productivity.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” explains Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless of the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact SLVREC.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

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

THIS ISSUE

Harvest Safety

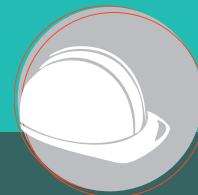
Electrical Safety for Kids

Loren Howard

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Electrical Safety for Kids

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At San Luis Valley REC, we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize to your children the importance of fire prevention, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who follow the plan and make it safely out of the home.

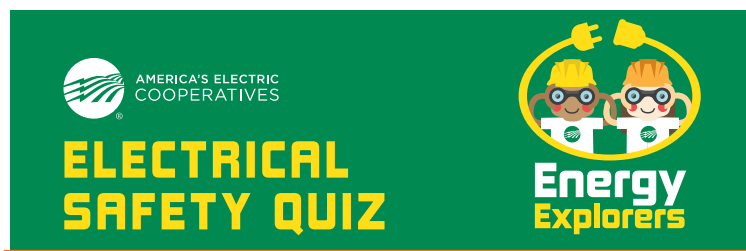
While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure that your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming into contact with a downed power line or a low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call REC.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, San Luis Valley REC is here to help. Please contact our office at 719.852.3538 for more information on safety demonstrations.



May is National Electrical Safety Month! Test your electrical safety knowledge by taking the quiz below.

- 1) Smoke alarms in your home should be tested _____ to ensure they work properly.
A. Once a month
B. Once a year
C. Once a day
- 2) Electrical cords should be placed under rugs or carpet to keep them out of the way.
A. True
B. False
- 3) What should you do if you are outdoors and hear thunder?
A. Hide under a tree
B. Seek shelter indoors and wait at least 30 minutes
C. Stand still
- 4) It is safe to leave the kitchen with a burner on, as long as it is a short amount of time.
A. True
B. False

Be an *Electrical Safety Ambassador*! Cut out the safety badge and tell your family and friends about the importance of electrical safety.



Answers: 1) A. 2) False. Electrical cords should never be placed underneath carpet or rugs because they are potential fire hazards. 3) B. 4) False. You should never leave a kitchen burner unattended.



LOREN HOWARD

What's New with Cielo

At the start of 2012, San Luis Valley REC decided to conduct an initial study of the feasibility of deploying a fiber optic based communications network throughout the San Luis Valley in order to accomplish two goals: 1) provide the network necessary for the continuing improvements to its electric system operations, and 2) offer Internet and phone services throughout San Luis Valley that are truly world class.

In 2013, after careful consideration, REC began the installation of fiber optic lines building first to several of the electric substations. In late 2014, a small pilot of fiber to the premise was completed, which offered Internet and phone service to 20 members of REC. In the spring of 2015, Cielo was established, and the fiber to the premise work began in earnest. By the end of 2016, Cielo should easily have over 1,000 accounts and close to \$1 million in annual revenue. Those numbers meet the projections of the financial analysis performed when the Cielo venture was started.

There have been two significant challenges as this new business has grown. First, connecting customers as fast as the demand. Consistently, the question from residents in the Valley is "When can you connect me?" The answer to that question is, in good legal speak, it depends. For a variety of reasons, the build of the fiber network started in REC's west territory — South Fork, Creede, Rio Grande County and Mineral County. Now in most of those areas, requests for new service can be responded to within a few weeks. The build-out has proceeded east and by the end of 2016 requests for service in the Del Norte

and surrounding areas can be scheduled. The build of this fiber network is proceeding as fast as physically and financially possible.

The second challenge that was recently addressed is the reliability of Cielo's services, both phone and Internet. In June of this year, Cielo acquired a second and physically diverse route out of the Valley. This additional connection substantially reduced the chance of Cielo's services being unavailable due to problems outside the Cielo fiber network. Like electricity, access to the Internet and phone service is really important to most residential customers and is vital to businesses. Cielo understands the importance of the services it provides and has worked to build the network in the Valley and the connections to the national networks as robust as possible. Our work is not done yet, but you can be assured that while Cielo prices are very competitive, reliability continues at the forefront of our network operations.

We look forward to our continued expansion and the positive economic diversity the network can bring. True to our cooperative nature we are here to serve our members and community with same pioneering spirit of the past 79 years.

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COMPANY NEWS

Welcome Terry Daley

Terry Daley joined San Luis Valley REC April 18 of this year. Terry comes to us from San Miguel Power Association, where he was employed for the past six years. Upon leaving he was the engineering manager for SMPA. Terry was already familiar with REC from his connections with Colorado Rural Electric Association.

Terry is originally from Wisconsin, but has lived in Minnesota, California and finally Colorado. All this time he has been involved in the world of electric utilities. According to Terry, REC offers a good diversity of duties and challenges. He has jumped right in and is quickly becoming part of the team.

Small town living coupled with direct access to outdoor activity made the San Luis Valley a great fit for Terry and his wife, Kathy. Both are avid skiers, runners and mountain bikers. We are happy to welcome the Daleys to the REC family.



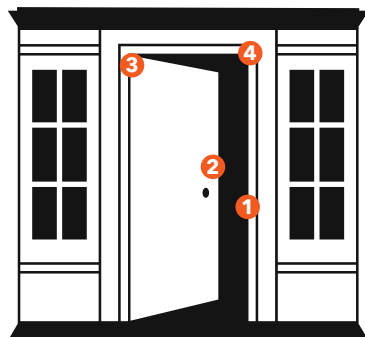
Conservation Corner



WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



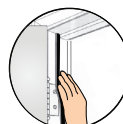
1 CLEANING SURFACES - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds cubed beef stew meat
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
4 cubes beef bouillon, crumbled
4 cups water
1 teaspoon dried rosemary
1 teaspoon dried parsley
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
4 carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
4 stalks celery, cut into 1 inch pieces
1 large onion, chopped
2 teaspoons cornstarch
2 teaspoons cold water

Beef Stew

In a large pot or Dutch oven, cook beef in oil over medium heat until brown. Dissolve bouillon in water and pour into pot. Stir in rosemary, parsley and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat; cover and simmer 1 hour.

Stir potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion into the pot. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 teaspoons cold water and stir into stew. Cover and simmer 1 hour more.

Nothing says fall like beef stew!

INGREDIENTS

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter, softened
2 cups white sugar
2 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 eggs

Orange Glaze

1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
5 teaspoons orange juice
2 tablespoons grated orange zest

Sweet Potato Pound Cake

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan. Sift together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt. Set aside.

In large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add mashed sweet potatoes and vanilla. Beat until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time (the batter will look curdled). Add flour mixture to potato mixture. Beat on low until combined.

Pour batter into 10 inch tube pan. Bake at 350°F for about 1 hour and 20 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted into cake comes out clean. Cool cake for 20 minutes in the pan, then invert onto a serving plate.

To make the glaze: in a small bowl, combine confectioners' sugar with 3 to 5 teaspoons orange juice to achieve drizzling consistency. Spoon over warm cake and sprinkle with orange zest if desired.



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

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September 2016



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting September 27 @ 6:00 p.m.
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

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