

FARMERS: REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY THIS HARVEST SEASON

A Local Viewpoint


BY DAVE FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

In 2017, farmers ranked eighth on the list of those with the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates), according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor. Unfortunately, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers rank right below workers in 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 presenting their long and arduous work days.

Safe Electricity and Morgan County Rural Electric Association 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.

 Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- If your equipment does hit 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.

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. [Wayne Bernahl (account #xxx6900)] For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org



DAVE FRICK

INCREASE YOUR SAFETY YIELD DURING HARVEST

Especially during the busy harvest season, help 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 try to move or raise a power line for clearance; instead call us.

If your equipment does come in contact with 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.

For more information about electrical safety, including farming-related safety tips, visit:

 Safe Electricity.org



2019 MCREA INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you, sponsors!

Morgan County Rural Electric Association thanks these businesses and individuals who generously sponsored the 2019 MCREA Invitational Golf Tournament. [Trent Ruder (acct #xxx0500)] Proceeds from the self-funded tournament go toward the Morgan County REA lineworker scholarship program.

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▲ Congratulations to the first-place team at the MCREA Invitational Golf Tournament (left to right) Ryan Reiss, Chad Unrein, Tim Peggram and Kelly Siebrands.

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- PepsiCola Bottling Co. of Brush
- Scott Aviation
- Sterling Trophy

COMMUNITY EVENTS MCREA ATTENDED



Member Services Representative Bill Annan talks with attendees at Bobstock.



MCREA Director of External Affairs Dave Henderson attends Bobstock.




Morgan County REA Member Services Department attends the Northeast Weld County Fair.



Northeast Weld County Fair.






September 2019
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

COOKWARE EFFICIENCY TIP:

Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov



WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations, Conrad Preston (account #xxx4800) and Gaire Rudnik (account #xxx9600), you saw your names and account numbers in the July edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You both received a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call Member Services at 970-867-5688 by September 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

ELIMINATE Toddler Temptation

If you are expecting young crawlers or toddlers in your home, take time to consider electrical items that could tempt inquisitive little ones. There are potential dangers in every room. You may think a room is fine at first glance, but consider getting down on your hands and knees to see it from a crawling baby or toddler's perspective.

Look for unprotected outlets, hanging or dangling cords with excess length, surge protectors and extension cords or long cords that could be tugged on. Various products are available to help cover outlet slots, reduce cord length, cover surge protector strips and help prevent little ones from pulling out plugs from outlets.

If the thought of all of this overwhelms you, ask a friend or the parent of young children to help you inspect your home. Then take action to protect the little ones who will be exploring your home.

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES