



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

Winter storm preparedness is always a concern for Morgan County REA. We were hit with a storm in mid-March that found us with a stranded lineman. The day after the storm, I wrote the following to MCREA's power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, thanking the organization and its employees for their help.

"I want to say Tri-State was huge to us last night. I live close to a couple of Tri-State transmission maintenance personnel in Fort Morgan. When walking my dog Friday night, I ran in to someone from Tri-State and noticed that he had an Arctic Cat (treaded snow cat) on the back of a Tri-State pickup truck. I asked him if he was preparing for the big blizzard this weekend, and he chuckled at me and said, 'I guess.' Nice guy, and I went on my way.

"Then last night after battling outages north of New Raymer all day, we had a lineman stuck, and no chance he was getting out because he was utterly snowed-in. Then it dawned on me — the Arctic Cat in my neighborhood. Our operations manager made a few phone calls last night to Tri-State.

"They said, 'Heck yes, we will help get your guy in.' They loaded up and headed up to the northern-most part of our service territory. They picked him up and delivered him home safely. (Kevin Rohn xxx8400)

"I want to give Tri-State a huge shout-out and thanks from the bottom of my heart. That is a cooperative principle that I love: cooperation among cooperatives. Please let your employees know that we are grateful at Morgan County REA to have such a great power supplier."



DAVID FRICK

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Safe Electricity.org

May is Electrical Safety Month. MCREA encourages you take time to assess your electricity use and make sure you're using electric appliances safely.



May 2021

## Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



Morgan County REA offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. We wish one and all a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend!

## Lineman Scholarship Winners Announced

MCREA is pleased to announce the lineman scholarship winners for 2021:

Uriel Ray and Noah Gettman, both from Fort Morgan.



▲ Uriel Ray



▲ Noah Gettman

## CAN YOU JOIN OUR PULLOUT LIST?

Do you have a tractor or heavy equipment that might help us pull out an MCREA vehicle stuck in difficult conditions?

MCREA is looking to update the list of folks in the service territory who are willing to be called to possibly help when REA equipment becomes stuck in mud, snow or sand. This allows crews to get back to work keeping members' power on safely.

We provide compensation when pullouts are performed, and we greatly appreciate any consumer-members who are willing to contact us to sign up.

To be added to our list, visit our website under the outages block and sign up. We'll reach out to you when future need arises.



### 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*.

Sorry, Robert Baltzell (account # xxx2100) and Maria Sandoval (acct #xxx5000. You didn't see your names and account numbers in the March edition of *CCL* and didn't receive a \$25 credit on your 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 May 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

## ANNUAL MEETING GRAND PRIZE WINNER



Don Enninga (pictured above) was the grand prize winner for the drawing from this year's MCREA Annual Meeting. In order to be entered in the drawing you had to register for the meeting, attend and vote. Once the meeting was over, we put everyone's name in a random generator and chose five winners. Grace Kanani, Ed Welker, Darby Shanks and Flat Bottom Farms were also chosen as winners. We want to thank everyone who registered and attended our annual meeting this year. Congratulations to all of our winners.



## Think Before You Climb

Before you rush into a job that requires you to use a ladder, take precautions before you climb.

### Electrical Safety



1. **Look up** and around for power line locations before using a ladder.
2. Keep a minimum **10-foot distance** from a power line or other electrical equipment at all times.
3. The minimum distance rule includes you (any part of your body) or **any object you are holding**, such as a ladder or tool.
4. Always **be aware of power line locations** when you are elevated.
5. Sources of elevation include, but are not limited to, a **ladder, rooftop, boom lift or scaffolding**.

### General Ladder Safety

1. Use a ladder on a **stable, level surface**.
2. Maintain **three-point contact** on the ladder when climbing.
3. Three points of contact mean **two hands and a foot** or **two feet and a hand**.
4. Keep your body **near the middle of the step** and face the ladder when climbing.
5. **Do not use the top step/rung** of a ladder unless designed for that purpose.
6. For a stepladder, make sure the base is **fully open** and the spreaders are **locked**.



Learn more about electrical safety:

 **Safe Electricity.org**<sup>®</sup>

Sources:  
OSHA,  
American Ladder Institute



## JOIN MCREA'S GRASSROOTS PROGRAM

Together we strive to promote a viable environment for our rural electric association, and enhanced quality of life of the consumer-members and communities we serve.

Electric cooperatives across the United States face the growing challenge and difficulty of balancing consumer-members' electricity needs with changing state and federal regulations. Together we must follow our nation's elected officials and keep up to date on proposed policies to ensure that electricity remains safe, affordable and reliable.

As a member-owned electric association, we are responsible for providing elected officials with the information they need to make effective policy decisions. (Anthony Zimbelman xxx0900) You can help keep these critical communication lines open by becoming a part of MCREA's Grassroots Program.

Simply sign up and join our grassroots network by completing the form at [www.mcrea.org/grassroots](http://www.mcrea.org/grassroots). Though you won't be held to any commitment, when we need MCREA's consumer-members to participate in an action, we'll call upon you to forward already-written emails or letters to lawmakers and commission members.



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# Check Out Electrical Concerns Before Moving into a New Home

Whether you are renting or buying, the process of looking for a house, condo or apartment can be overwhelming, especially for young people moving out on their own or new families ready to relocate to larger places. Along with looking for a good value, the right neighborhood or curb appeal, it's also a good idea to look for signs of potential electrical trouble before making a home buying or renting decision.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are present in an estimated average of 47,000 home structure fires per year in the United States, which result in 430 deaths, 1,280 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage. Based on figures from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, electrical injuries in general cause approximately 1,000 deaths per year in the United States. Aside from having a professional electrical inspection completed, look for the following warning signs of larger electrical safety hazards before signing on the dotted line:

- Outlets and light switches that are warm to the touch.
- Outlets that are loose, scorched or discolored.
- Wall or light switches that cause shocks upon contact.
- Strange smells, such as something burning or overheating.
- Smoke or sparks.
- Exposed wires.
- Lack of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) on certain outlets — those near a water source or that could get wet.
- Lack of AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters); these help to prevent fires and are required in new builds.
- Faulty appliances.
- Evidence of frequently blown fuses or circuit breakers.
- Missing or broken wall plates.
- Delayed responses after switching lights on or off.
- Flickering lights.

Another good house-hunting practice is to take note if there are too few outlets to accommodate your needs for electronics, appliances and other items that will increase the electrical load. If you will need to use extension cords and large outlet strips on a regular basis, you risk overloading your electrical system and creating an electrical hazard.

If you are buying a home, a reputable home inspector should note electrical wiring or other electrical deficiencies and code violations. Make sure electrical items are addressed by a qualified electrician before you call your new place home. If you already own your home and detect electrical issues, call a reputable electrician so that problems can be addressed immediately.

If you are or will be a renter and notice any of these issues, advise the landlord right away. If your landlord won't make repairs, tenants have the option to hire someone to make the repairs and deduct the

costs from the rent — at least in most states. However, remember that a certified electrician is the only person who should be hired to assess and repair electrical hazards or address issues, so be sure to verify credentials before hiring one. Renters may also have the option to withhold rent until the landlord makes repairs. Research laws in your area to determine renter protection provisions.

Both renters and homeowners should test all GFCIs once per month to make sure they are working and keep an eye out for other electrical hazards.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Home Electrical Inspection:

### Pass or Fail?

Would your home pass an electrical inspection? Local electrical codes vary, so check with your qualified electrician, but here are **five things your home should have**: