

**PLUG
INTO
SAFETY**



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority
this month, and every month.

CVEA Prioritizes Safety Year Round

By Anne Prince

At Copper Valley Electric, Electrical Safety Month is recognized each May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But at CVEA, we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

The co-op is committed to a culture of safety that is integral to daily operations. Lineworkers and power plant operators are required to wear personal protective equipment that includes

special fire-resistant clothing. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. The CVEA safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work in the field as well as within the building. Employees meet annually to discuss the safety program and receive reminders on staying safe at work and at home.

CVEA's concern for safety extends beyond just employees. The entire team cares deeply about the safety of cooperative members. Travis Million says, "safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe."

To promote safety education in local communities, CVEA frequently provides electrical safety content in Ruralite, the monthly member magazine, on Facebook, and cvea.org.

Co-op representatives also provide live 'Power Town' safety demonstrations at the annual meeting, community events, and in the classrooms at schools within the service territory.

The team at CVEA discusses emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. Students are cautioned about the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices. In addition, CVEA encourages the public to contact the co-op if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation.

A top priority of the co-op is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. Here are just a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.

Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits.

Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.

Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly.

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

Visit cvea.org for additional electrical safety tips. If you are interested in a safety demonstration for your school, organization, or upcoming community event, email info@cvea.org. ■

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

CVEA Wins First Place NWPPA Safety Award



SAFETY FIRST

On April 7, the 2023 Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) Safety Award winners were announced at the association's Engineering & Operations Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Congratulations to the team at Copper Valley Electric Association for winning first place in the 50,001-80,000 Hours of Exposure category.

Safety contest awards are based upon a review of each utility's safety contest form, the number of recordable injury/illness cases (the incident rate) in 2022, and the lost work days (the severity rate) in 2022.

CEO Travis Million commented on the win, "CVEA takes great pride in the safety culture that has been established over the last decade. Awards like this one from NWPPA are a reminder of what a sustainable safety culture can accomplish. Most important to the team at CVEA, is making sure that everyone goes home each night in the same condition they arrived to work each morning. I am proud of my team and this accomplishment."

This is the third NWPPA first place safety award given to Copper Valley Electric.



COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



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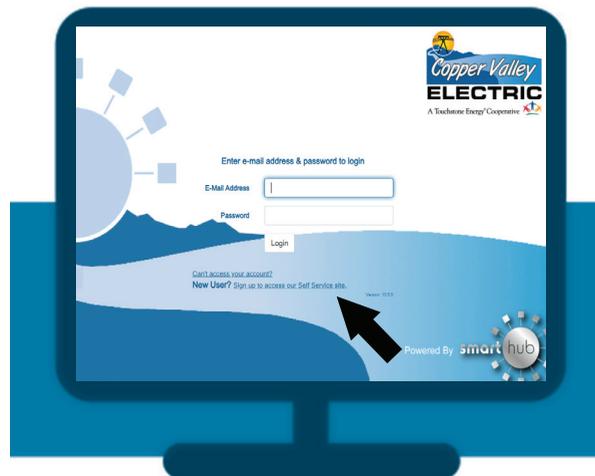
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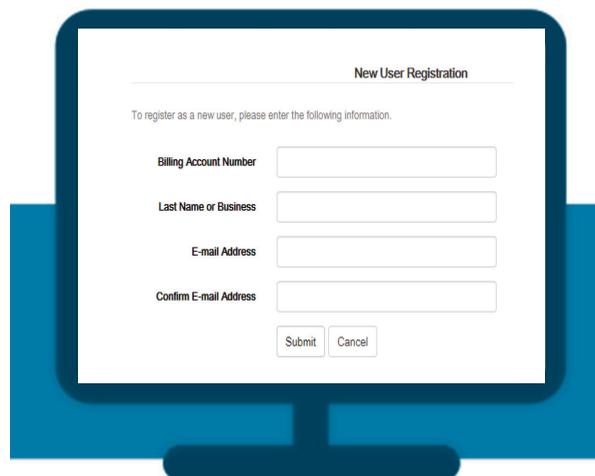
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2. Choose 'sign up to access our self service site'



3. Fill out new user registration information



May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.



#ElectricalSafetyMonth

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month.

Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and CVEA, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2021, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 3,800 deaths, 14,700 injuries and \$15.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 93 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated, overloaded, or improperly used.

“It is critical that the public understands their home’s electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes,” explains Travis Million, CVEA CEO. “With newer technologies and more electrical gadgets being used in the home than ever before, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that’s

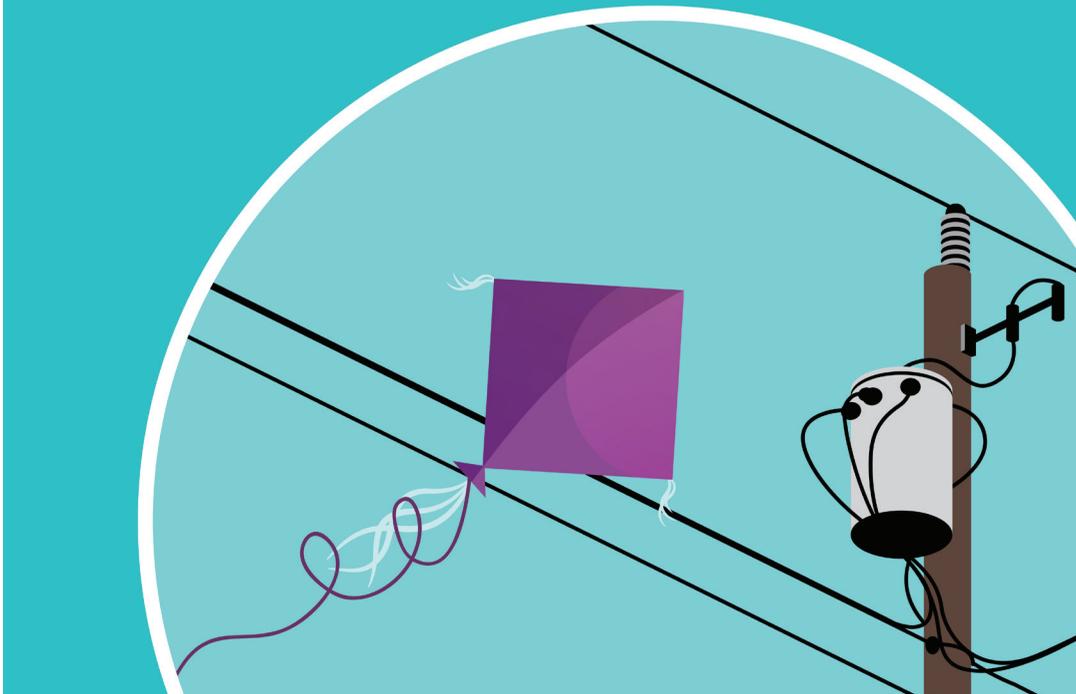
compatible with the increased load.”

Here are a few safety reminders:

- Only use lightbulbs that meet (or are below) maximum wattage listed on the fixture; exceeding can cause overheating.
- Extensions cords should be temporary; not used as a permanent solution.
- Never use electrical cords that are warm to the touch, frayed, or damaged in any way.
- Watch for frequently tripped circuit breaker and blown fuses; these are warning signs of aging or faulty wiring.
- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home; remember to test once a month.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let’s plug into safety this May.

Talk to your children about the importance of practicing electrical safety.



Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. CVEA recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play. Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize they should never climb or play near them.

CVEA recommends children be taught to follow these outdoor safety rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and drones in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines; if a kite or drone gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it, contact CVEA for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason - electric substations contain high-voltage equipment which can be deadly; never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside - call CVEA instead.
- Never go anywhere near a fallen power line; tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult.
- Use caution when plugging in radios, iPhone speakers, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles, and wet surfaces.
- Parents, when designing an outdoor play area, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. ■



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Important Dates

May

CVEA Annual Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, in the Valdez District, and Thursday, May 4, in the Copper Basin District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 18, 2023, in Valdez

Co-op Connections Survey Deadline:

The deadline to complete all Co-op Connections surveys is 6 p.m., Thursday, May 18; visit cvea.org for details and survey links

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Glennallen

CVEA Community Foundation

Contribution Season: The 2023 Contribution Season begins Thursday, June 29, 2023; visit cvea.org for details

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Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 CVEA Annual Meeting!

Keep Utility and Emergency Crews Safe While Working

When the power goes out, so do CVEA's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities in CVEA's service territory.

Additionally, when the lights are on, crews work daily throughout the community making repairs and performing maintenance work on the system.

If you're traveling and see crews on the side of the road, CVEA kindly asks that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. Safety of everyone involved is top priority, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, please slow down when approaching road-side crews.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. Please follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways. ■

