

Perennial NEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Perennial employees Michael and Christopher were active participants.

Spooky Energy Savings

Saving electricity doesn't have to be scary. Just follow some of these tips.

Energy for Generations
PERENNIALTM
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Electrical Safety

One of the goals of Perennial Public Power District and its employees is to help educate the public on electrical safety and the hazards that are associated with working around electrical lines. There are several ways that we accomplish this goal.

Each year in October, during Public Power month, our Safety Coordinator, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, and a Lineman go to each

of the schools that are in our service territory and speak to elementary aged children. In these presentations, the students learn about many different hazards that are present around your home, farmyard, or as you are traveling in your vehicle. They are taught about ground fault circuit interrupter outlets (GFCI), how current will always take the path of least resistance, what to do if you are in a vehicle accident involving a powerline, and how to safely dig around buried electric lines. It is our hope that students take that information home and share it with their family members.

This year, to help educate the public, Perennial built our own hotline demonstration trailer. This trailer is used to show the many hazards that are present when working with large machinery around

electrical lines. The trailer works by back feeding 240-volts into a pole mounted transformer. In doing so we are able to put 7,200-volts onto the line that is mounted on the trailer. This is a safe way for our lineman to show the potential hazards of contacting a primary electrical line in a safe, controlled environment.

Another tool that we use for safety

demonstrations is a tabletop high voltage demonstration. This display uses a neon transformer plugged into a 120-volt outlet to produce 7,500 volts. The tabletop demonstration can be used indoors to represent the same hazards that are shown on our larger hotline

trailer but can be used indoors.

Perennial employees are able to demonstrate these hazards at different events such as Geneva Ag Days, the York County Fair, and Husker Harvest Days. If you have a group that is interested in having Perennial discuss electrical safety or perform a hotline demonstration, please contact the Operations Department at 402-362-3355. Our goal is to provide our customers with the knowledge they need to stay safe around electricity.



Steve Gerken
Manager of Operations



Perennial crews do a hotline demo

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On Our Cover:

Chris Stutzman performs pole top rescue at the annual Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo.

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- 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 electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 and Perennial, 402-362-3355, immediately 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) and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.



Keep augers away from powerlines.

Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

Consider your surroundings when choosing locations to load and unload.



Michael Spellman performs pole top rescue.



NEBRASKA BRO

The 2023 Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo was held July 21st at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Broken Bow. Four utilities competed for the first time in this year's rodeo, joining the 10 other utilities that typically compete, making this year's event the largest Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo ever. A total of 66 lineworkers from across the state competed.

Perennial's Manager of Operations, Steve Gerken, as well as two Apprentice Line Technicians, Christopher Stutzman and Michael Spellman, attended. Both apprentices competed while Steve helped judge the competition.



Michael Spellman and Christopher Stutzman in front of a Perennial truck.

NEBRASKA LINEWORKERS



Christopher and Michael were able to practice pole top rescue before the competition, but the other events remained a mystery until competitors arrived at the rodeo. This year, the mystery events were the egg climb, where competitors climbed the pole with an egg in their bag. Once at the top of the pole, they put the egg in their mouth and circle the pole. Then, they attempt to climb down the pole without breaking the egg. The other mystery event was removing and installing a tap rod. Tap rods are metal rods that cover the line used to keep cables protected from compression, flashover, bending, and abrasion. The removing and installing a tap rod event was to simulate

what might need to be done in storm restoration. Both Christopher and Michael competed in a mutual aid event where they had to frame a 3 phase cross arm and mount it to the pole while working with someone from another public power district.

The Lineworkers Rodeo has been an annual event since 2012. Competitors are judged on their ability to perform tasks safely and quickly. Nebraska Utilities and its partners organized the event. Congratulations to all the winners from Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District, and Lincoln Electric Systems.



Michael Spellman helps with opening ceremonies



Christopher Stutzman prepares for pole top rescue. In background Steve Gerken judges pole top rescue.

PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jeremy Styskal

Systems Technician



30
YEARS

Jeremy Styskal began working for the District in 1993 as an Apprentice Line Technician after graduating from Central Community College with an Associate of Science Degree. He was promoted to Journeyman Line Technician in 1997 and then Lead Line Technician in 2005. In 2008, he accepted the position of

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Technician. This technology has given the District several benefits to better serve our customers, including outage notification, transformer loading, voltage monitoring, and others. Jeremy has been a vital asset in implementing our AMI technology, which continues to evolve every year. Today, he serves as a Systems Technician.

The District also operates a SCADA, Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, system. The District uses this technology to monitor substations, control circuit switches, and log power system data. Jeremy troubleshoots RTUs, Remote Terminal Units, and other end devices. He is our expert in field communications and keeps the system working effectively. Additionally, Jeremy assembles and programs load control

switches, which are then installed on irrigation well panels. He also shares responsibilities in operating the load control system and monitoring load reductions during control periods.

After 30 years it is easy to see how Jeremy has progressed by his promotions and career changes at Perennial. We have valued the extra effort he has given to the job. Styskal stated, "Being in the metering field over the years has been a challenging and rewarding career. The industry constantly changes and I'm always learning something new." If you see Jeremy, make sure to congratulate him on his work anniversary. Jeremy and his wife Tammy live in McCool Junction. Jeremy enjoys fishing, and collecting antiques.

Kory McManigal

Lead Line Technician



20
YEARS

Linemen enjoy working outdoors in all kinds of weather, even the worst that nature can dish out! Kory McManigal is no exception. When asked what he

likes about his job, he stated "I enjoy working out in the country every day and keeping the lights on for everyone." Kory McManigal is celebrating working at Perennial for 20 years this month. McManigal attended the Utility Line program at Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk after he graduated from high school.

After completing the program at NECC, he started his career at Perennial in October of 2003 as an apprentice line technician. An apprentice lineman must complete Perennial's apprentice line program and perform satisfactorily in the field for a number of years before

they can advance to a journeyman line technician. Today, Kory serves Perennial as a lead line technician. As lead line technician McManigal is responsible for new line builds, and he is in responsible for a specific area of the District.

Kory resides in York with his wife, Ashley, and his daughters, Kadence, Alivia, and Avery. After work, McManigal enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. Perennial is blessed to have employees like Kory who work outdoors and take pride in serving the public and making sure everyone has safe and reliable electricity. Thank you, Kory, for 20 years of hard work and dedication!

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smartphone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy



Illuminate your lair with energy-efficient lighting. LED bulbs use 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So, this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic – the kind that brings real energy savings.

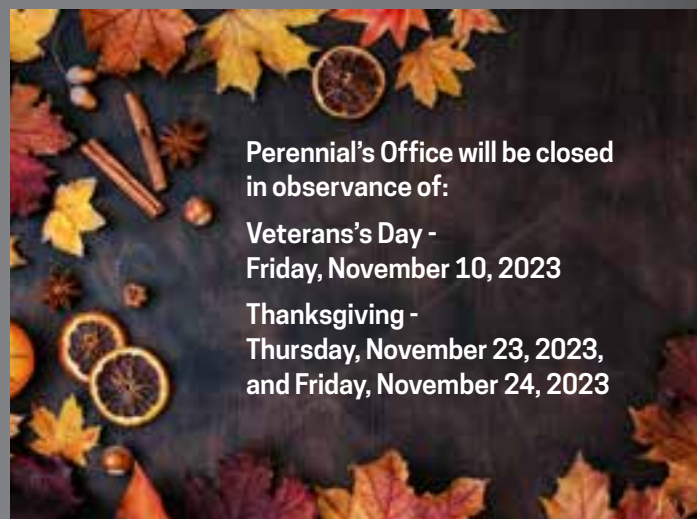
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Utility Line Scholarship

Perennial Public Power District is offering a \$1,000 per year scholarship to a student planning to enroll in an accredited utility line program. Applicants must reside within Perennial's service area to be eligible.

This scholarship program is aimed at highly-motivated and safety-conscious individuals who want to become a line technician. Participation in this program offered by Perennial does not guarantee future employment by Perennial.

The application deadline for this scholarship is **December 31, 2023**. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney Giesenhagen at cgiesenhagen@perennialpower.com.



Do the Dishes Effectively

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.