

Perennial NEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Safety Tips for Students and Those Who Transport Them

Tips to keep our students and those who transport them safe both to and from school.

Commitment to Zero Contact

Safety is part of everything we do at Perennial.



Safety is Our Core Value

Our mission is to provide you reliable and affordable electric service. But our core value is safety. It's what everything revolves around in fulfilling our mission. In this edition of *Perennial News* you will see an article about an event that was held recently for employees and their family members, to further focus on the need for our employees to work safely. Or to put it another way, to ensure that our employees go home at the end of the day in the same condition that they came to work.

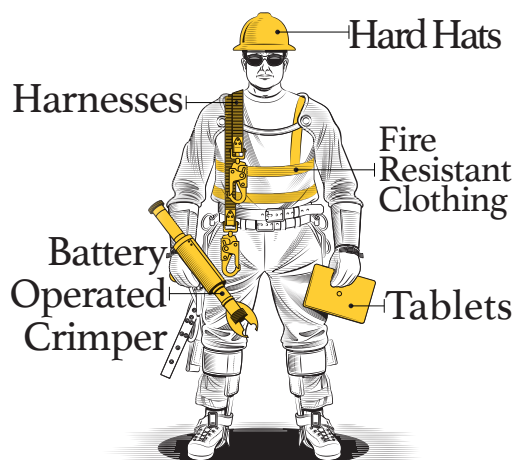
It goes without saying that electric line technicians have a dangerous job. However, through safe work practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) and employees working as a team, much of the risk can be reduced. Our safety program places an emphasis on continued education, both for our employees and the public. We continuously devote our attention and resources to educating folks on the harm that can be caused by a contact with power lines or electrical equipment.

Safety meetings on a variety of topics are held monthly for employees. Some of these meetings are provided by the

job training and safety personnel from our state association, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

Regarding safety equipment, each employee is supplied with top quality PPE. And each truck is stocked with first aid kits and automated external defibrillators, in addition to the normal roadside safety equipment such as safety signs and cones.

From an internal communications standpoint, our crews conduct daily job briefings called "tailgates." These meetings confirm that everyone on the crew knows their role and understands the potential hazards associated with the job they are about to do. They also confirm that the crew has the proper material and PPE to do the job safely.



It's easy to take the potential dangers of electricity for granted. That's why we are dedicated to ongoing safety training and education for all employees and our customers. It's a commitment that your board of directors and Perennial's employees take very seriously. It's our core value.



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Youth Leadership Energy Camp

Perennial sponsored **Jaiden Papik** of Exeter at the annual Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Youth Energy Leadership Camp which was held at the State 4-H camp in Halsey National Forest on July 8-12, 2019. Jaiden is the daughter of Doug and Melanie Papik. Jaiden attends Exeter-Milligan high school where she will be a junior in the upcoming school year. The last couple years of high school Jaiden has excelled in sports and been a leader on and off the court. For example, Papik is a National Honor Society member, FCCLA chapter president, FFA chapter treasurer, current class valedictorian and the 2019 Exeter-Milligan Team Player of the Year.

Before heading to camp, Jaiden had mentioned that she couldn't wait to meet new people at camp. We are proud that Jaiden represented Perennial at the Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp.

Wyatt Hansen of Fairmont returned to the camp as a junior counselor. Wyatt is the son of Amanda Schropfer and Henry Hansen. Hansen at the young age of fifteen

achieved the level of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts. Wyatt attends McCool Junction where he will be a senior this coming year, after he graduates he plans on attending Northeast Community College in the fall of 2020 where he

plans on perusing a degree in Utility Line. Hansen said his favorite thing about camp last year was meeting new people and getting to tour the Gerald Gentleman Station. Additionally, he stated he learned a lot from the hands on STEM activity where he had to wire circuits and make a safe.

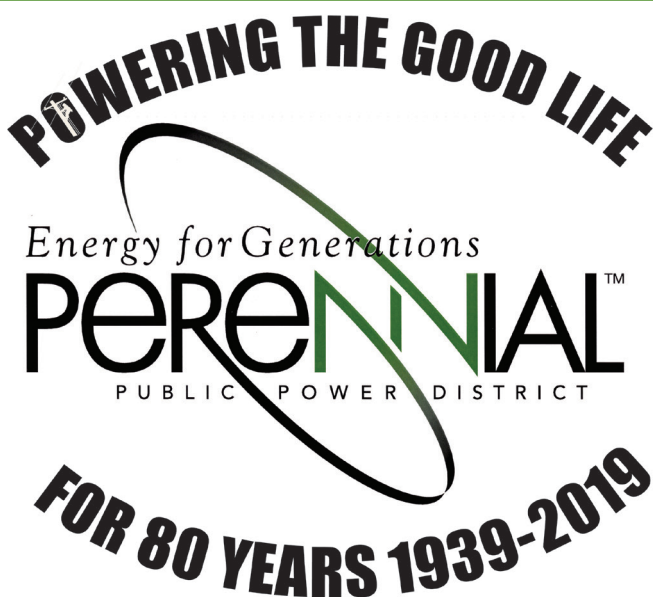
Youth Energy Leadership Camp is a fun filled week that taught the students how public power districts

operate. The students toured Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland and the Kingsley Hydro at Lake McConaughy.

Lastly, Jaiden competed in the ambassador contest for a trip to attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C., while she did not win the trip; she is invited back to camp next year to be a junior counselor.



Jaiden Papik (left) of Exeter and Wyatt Hansen (right) of Fairmont



Cookbook!

Do you like spending time in the kitchen? Do you miss seeing recipes in the magazine? Then you're in luck! This year to celebrate our 80th Anniversary we are going to release a Perennial cookbook! Be sure to keep an eye out for the October edition of *Perennial News*, because it will have a voucher for your free cookbook. Additionally it will also have the details of our 80th Anniversary celebration, which will also take place in October.

Commitment to ZERO

All of Perennial's employees, board, and their respective family members attended Perennial's Family Safety Night on May 23, 2019. While in attendance, each lineman signed a Commitment to Zero Contacts as our local commitment to a nationwide safety program being sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

The Commitment to Zero Contacts program provides utility employees with tools to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contacts. It focuses on changing the work culture; addressing perception and behavior associated with certain jobs line workers perform. The program is focused on three keys: awareness, expectation and accountability. Since its launch in April of 2018, the employees of over 550 electric cooperatives and public power districts have signed the Commitment to Zero Contacts.

Perennial already had an excellent safety record and a culture of safety in place, but there was still room for improvement. With the implementation of the Commitment to Zero Contacts, Perennial changed how crews conducted job briefings. Now, job briefing forms are used to help the line workers assess the safety materials needed for every job, no matter how small, as well as what precautions need to be taken at the job site to avoid injuries. Additionally, the operations department began improving the communications between the office and field personnel. Changing the job briefings and improving communications was not enough.

Perennial's safety committee suggested a safety night, which would include the employee's loved ones. This is how the idea for Family Safety Night was born. Signing the "Commitment to Zero Contacts" was an important part of Family Safety

Night. The family of each Perennial line worker sat at the table with the employee while the employee signed the commitment and a picture was taken. A magnet using that image was created for each employee's vehicle. This magnet will serve as a visual reminder of how important it is to practice safe work habits. Cory Parr, Vice President of Safety and Loss Prevention of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, attended and stressed the importance of the program. Parr stated, "The Commitment to Zero Contacts is a commitment to each other that you're going to do what it takes to not only get the lights back on, but that you're going to do it the right way. The Commitment to Zero Contacts is an awareness and an accountability program."

Family Safety Night consisted of more than just signing commitments, speeches, supper, and celebrating our safety record. To help family members better understand the work



Contacts

environment, bucket truck rides were given and the table top hot-line demonstration was operated. Virtual reality headsets allowed those present to see what it's like to be in one of Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) nuclear reactors during refueling, on top of one of their wind turbines, or up in a bucket on a bucket truck. There were also crank circuits the children could wire and crank to make fans or Christmas lights operate.

Smiles could be seen all through the warehouse the whole evening. The event even seemed to wrap up before a storm rolled in that night. And while Family Safety Night is long over, our Commitment to Zero Contacts and safety will continue for generations.



Safety Tips for Students and Those Who Transport Them

Students get to school in a variety of ways—riding a bus, being driven by a family member, carpooling, walking, or even driving themselves. Electricity is not usually the first thing on a student's or driver's mind on the way to school. Yet, it is vitally important to know what to do if there is a downed line or an accident with a power pole along that journey. In this article Perennial and Safe Electricity share tips that can help keep students and those who help transport them to and from school safe.

Severe storms, high winds, and vehicular accidents with power poles can all cause power lines to fall. Just because a power line is down does not mean that it is not carrying electricity. While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Treat all down lines as though they are energized, and stay far away from them. Call 911 to have first responders and the utility notified of the downed power line.

If you are in a vehicle that wrecks with a power pole, the vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you could become the electricity's path to the ground and possibly be electrocuted. Stay in the vehicle, and tell others to do the same. Call 911 to have emergency and utility services notified. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility

professional has told you it is safe.

The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire—and those instances are rare. If you must exit, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety, roughly 50 feet. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

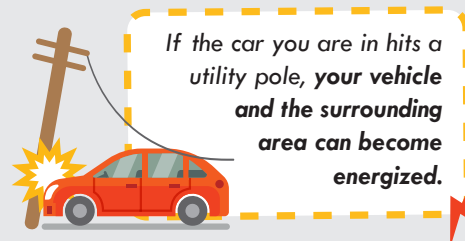
If you come upon or witness an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away from the accident until utility professionals and emergency responders have confirmed that there are no electrical dangers.

Remember, if you witness an accident involving power lines, stay away, tell others to stay away and call 911. In the event you are involved in an accident with power lines stay in the vehicle and call 911 and warn others to stay away. If you must exit because the vehicle is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle and land with your feet together without touching the vehicle. After you land “bunny hop” keeping your feet together until you are approximately 50 feet away from the vehicle. Knowing these tips could be the difference between life and death.

KNOW WHAT TO DO



if in an Auto Accident with Power Lines



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



1. Do NOT leave the car, and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have the utility notified.



3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason to exit the vehicle is **if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: **with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.**



Continue to **hop away** with your **feet together** as far as you can.



Learn more at

Safe Electricity.org

Outlet Safety

The summer heat is here, which means you may be doing some indoor home improvement projects. If this involves applying a coat of paint to your walls, remember to cover the electrical receptacles. You may think that by skipping this step and painting them, you can make the outlets match the wall. Paint and outlets are not a good combination and can create safety hazards.

When doing a painting project in your home electric power outlets should not be painted over. Painting over an electrical outlet can plug the holes in the outlet with paint and make it very difficult to insert a plug into the outlet. If you do use enough force to push the blades of the plug into the clogged outlet, you may break the outlet, the plug, or both. Even if you can force the plug into the outlet, you should not!

The metal spring blades in an outlet are supposed to make firm, snug contact with the prongs on the power cord's plug and transfer electrical power from the receptacle to the plug. If there is paint on the blades, it may prevent contact or allow only partial contact. The fixture or appliance powered by the plug and cord may not work or be damaged by improper voltage. Heat generated by a poor connection may create a potential fire hazard.

If paint is applied over a modern, 3-wire, grounded outlet, the hole in the outlet that is most susceptible

to getting paint inside of it is the round (or "U" shaped) hole for the ground prong on the plug. Paint getting into the "ground" hole can cause a threat to human life. The grounded conductor in a 3-wire cord is a safety feature on the cord. However, if the appliance served by the cord experiences an internal short circuit, the appliance

may become energized at dangerous voltages if there is no path for electricity over the grounded conductor.

Other types of outlets can be negatively affected by painting them as well. Tamper resistant outlets which are designed to stop children from sticking metal objects into the empty slots may not close properly when the outlet is not in use. GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) or AFCI (arc fault circuit interrupter) outlets may fail to operate properly if painted. Not only is this a fire hazard, but it becomes a shock/burn hazard too, as the GFCI is to protect you from electric shock and the AFCI from burns.

All home inspectors will recommend that you replace painted outlets. For those worried about matching home décor, there is a great selection of colors in wall plates, switches and outlets to pick from.

Lastly, if an outlet feels warm to the touch or you hear a buzzing noise when a cord or appliance is plugged into the outlet, you should always investigate. It is likely that the outlet will need to be replaced by a professional.



Community Calendar

August 1-4 - York County Fair

August 23-September 2 - Public Power Booth Nebraska
State Fair

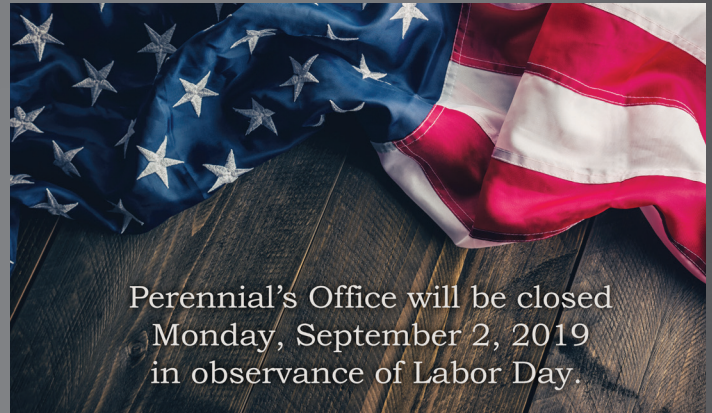
September 2 - Perennial Office Closed in
Observance of Labor Day

September 5-8 - Yorkfest Celebration

September 10-12 - Husker Harvest Days - Public
Power Booth and Hot Line
Demo

September 14 - Heritage Day at Heritage Park
Henderson

September 20-22 - McCool Junction Mustang
Round Up



Filter Replacement



Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent. Remember, Perennial has partnered with FilterEasy to make it easier for you to remember to change your heating, ventilation and air conditioning filter. For more information on FilterEasy or any of our EnergyWiseSM programs visit www.perennialpower.com.

