

Perennial NEWS

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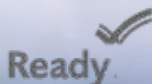
August 2020



PREPARED, NOT SCARED



FEMA



Ready.

National Preparedness Month 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DIY Tips and Safety

Remodeling tips to make your project go smoothly.

Be Prepared

Storms can pop up at anytime. Be ready by following these simple steps.



Amid the Chaos

As we have seen and coped with the realities brought on by COVID-19, as well as watched our country go through tumultuous times that have lead to protesting, even in locations close to home, I want to assure you that we are doing our part to keep life as normal as possible. Amid the chaos, and no matter the circumstances, our priority has and always will be to keep the power flowing, because we realize the importance of having a reliable supply of electricity. It's probably only second to having a good reserve of food and water.

Our business has been unusual, to say the least. While we continue checking our employee's temperature when coming to work every day, practicing social distancing as much as possible, and maintaining the process of sanitizing our office daily, we are slowly getting back to what we hope will be normal operations.

We are in the process of re-opening our office to customers with appointments. So, if you want to talk to someone about a new or uprated service, or if you want to discuss a billing issue with someone face-to-face, give us a call, and we will make arrangements for you to safely enter the facility. Be advised that we will ask

that precautionary measures be followed while in the building. A non-touch sanitizer station will be available for your use, and if you go beyond the front desk, which means to meet with an employee in their office, whether or not you feel that it is needed, we will require you to wear a mask. If you don't have one, we will provide a mask for you.

Even though we are not yet fully open to the public, this phased approach to re-opening

our office will allow us to move forward with a careful balance between safety and fulfilling your service needs. However, for the time being, we would encourage you to continue paying your bill as you have over the last several months, whether

that be through the SmartHub link on our website, by our secure pay-by-phone option, through a reoccurring bank draft, by mail, or by depositing it in one of our drop boxes.

We have always been able to deal with a variety of circumstances, from tornadoes to ice storms. And I have no doubt that we will get beyond the current state of events and eventually get back to normal. Until then, stay healthy and safe.



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

ATTENTION
FACE MASK
REQUIRED
BEYOND THIS POINT

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Taking on DIY Projects and Safety

It could be the coolest remodeling design you have seen showcased in a magazine, on television, or online. What's more, it might look really easy to do, but never start construction if you do not know how to do so safely. When it comes to home improvement, there is always another awesome task waiting to be finished. Completing a project yourself can save money and be a fulfilling aspect of owning a home. It can also be a path to disaster if safety is not at the top of the priority list.

Electricity is just one of the potential hazards that needs to be addressed during home improvement projects. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration along with Perennial have some tips on electrical safety to keep you as well as your Do-It-Yourself (DIY) construction crew safe:

- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles, or have an assured equipment grounding conductor program (AEGCP).
- Follow manufacturers' recommended testing procedures to insure GFCIs are working correctly.
- Use double-insulated tools and equipment. You can recognize double-insulated equipment by its distinctive marking of a box within a box.
- Use tools and equipment according to the instructions included in their listing, labeling, or certification.



- Visually inspect all electrical equipment before use. Remove from service any equipment with frayed cords, missing ground prongs, cracked tool casings, etc. Do not use defective equipment until the problem has been corrected.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) suggests that a clear vision of a project before it begins can help produce a good outcome. It also advises thinking about traffic patterns, furniture size and placement, colors, lighting, as well as how you plan on using a new or remodeled space. According to NAHB, "A good rule of thumb for any home owner is to avoid projects that require a license or structural changes to walls, roofs, and floors."

Remember if your DIY project has children and pets in the area of construction, make sure there is a plan in place to keep them clear of danger. Get more information on DIY electrical safety at SafeElectricity.org.

Service Call? What Is It and How Much?

A service call occurs when Perennial personnel respond to a power interruption call. If it is determined that the interruption of power is caused by the failure of the customer's equipment, and there is electricity at the point of delivery, a service call charge will be billed to the customer. A reasonable effort will be made to advise the customer about the potential service call charge before the service call begins.

How much is a service call? A charge of \$165 per occurrence shall be charged for the response to a

power interruption call where it is determined that the customer's equipment failed, and it is not an outage on Perennial's equipment.

What can you do to avoid a service call charge? Check your fuses or circuit breakers first. Check to see if your neighbors have power. Next, look at the meter. If there is no power at the point of delivery, the screen on the meter will be blank, or there may be an error code.

Perennial is here to serve you. Please help us serve you by always checking your fuses or circuit breaker first.

DON'T WAIT. BE PREPARED

We take electricity for granted. We don't realize how much we depend on it until there is a storm or other disaster that takes the power out, for hours or even days, and we struggle with the basics of everyday life.

September is National Preparedness Month and a good time to think about how we can be prepared for power outages in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered



milk, instant coffee, water as well as other essentials (i.e., masks, diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation along with hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, also make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

SAFETY KIT CHECKLIST



First Aid
Kit



Nonperishable
Food



Water



Cash



ed **BEFORE** THE STORM.



Have enough food, water, and medication to last for at least 3 to 7 days.

Before the storm

Be sure to fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said,

do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white LED lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for emergency updates, you can also check Perennial's Facebook page for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress as well as anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings also follow Perennial Public Power District on Facebook to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important public power news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.



Battery-powered
NOAA Radio



Dust Mask



Cell Phone with a
backup battery



Necessary
Medications

P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Burk

Manager of Purchasing and Warehousing



20
YEARS

Jeff Burk will celebrate working twenty years at Perennial in September. He is currently Perennial's Manager of Purchasing and Warehousing. While working at Perennial, Burk attended the

School of Business at the University of Wisconsin in Madison to receive his National Rural Electric Association Manager Internship Program certificate.

Jeff is responsible for managing Perennial's inventory of line materials and electrical equipment in the warehouse. He is also responsible for managing the District's buildings and property. As well as making sure we are compliant with all federal, state, and local regulations. Burk has to be proficient at record-keeping to be able to perform all of these duties

Jeff stated that his favorite part of the job is getting to build things. Since Perennial is always building or maintaining electrical services, making sure the District has

what the crews need to do their job day to day on hand is fun and rewarding for him.

Burk lives in York with his wife, Shauna. He has two married sons and four grandchildren. After work, Jeff enjoys working on woodworking and building projects. He also enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, gardening, and canning.

Perennial is lucky to have employees, like Burk, who enjoy working hard to keep the property in good order. As well as keep the warehouse stocked so the line workers can do their jobs, helping make sure everyone has safe and reliable electricity. Perennial would like to thank Jeff for twenty years of attentiveness and consistency!

Operations Report

August 2020

Distribution Projects:

2020 started the same as any other year. Perennial crews started working on the year's work plan to rebuild existing power lines in late January. They completed a 2-mile rebuild north of Shickley,

and another crew was working on a 6-mile rebuild north of York. Then came Covid-19. This was a storm that required Perennial to look at different ways to keep our employees healthy as well as continuing to maintain and restore power to our customers. For the next six weeks, Perennial implemented a Pandemic



Plan and worked strategically so that there were always people available to maintain the system. As we continue implementing

our Pandemic Plan, Mother Nature brought us another challenge on Easter weekend, bringing ice and strong winds. Perennial employees worked long hours away from their families on Easter Sunday to restore power to our customers. Over 20 poles needed to be replaced after the storm cleared, which were replaced during the following week. As we move into the fall of 2020, Perennial has two main projects on the schedule, one south and another west of McCool Junction. Other projects scheduled for 2020 will be in the Fairmont, Milligan, and Ohio areas. Stay safe, look up, and always be aware of your surroundings.

New Service Requests:

If you are considering a new service, whether it is a house, business, irrigation service, etc. please keep Perennial in mind when considering your project. It is beneficial if we are involved from the onset to plan the work and to have time to order special materials that may be needed to complete your project.

Randy Martin

Manager of Operations

Electrical Dangers of Hay Bale Handling and Storage

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. Since transporting and stacking large hay bales has resulted in numerous injuries as well as the deaths of some operators of the machinery or people near the scene. We want to remind customers of the dangers of stacking hay bales under electrical equipment on the farm or ranch. As many of these accidents could have been prevented had the operators used more care when operating equipment near power lines.

Before beginning work, conduct a site survey noting the locations of overhead power lines, and take measures to prevent electrical accidents. When operating equipment, be sure to maintain situational awareness, keeping yourself and the equipment safely away from overhead lines. Perennial does not recommend that anyone attempt to calculate how close they can come to a powerline. As a general precaution, when under a line, never put yourself or any object higher than 14 feet above the ground. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifies a minimum safe clearance for each operating voltage. Perennial constructs power lines to meet the specified NESC clearance for safety.

Stacking hay under overhead lines violates Perennial's power line clearance, the area under and around the lines, along with impeding our ability to operate and maintain the powerline safely. It also presents a potential safety hazard to the public. Hazards include possible electrical contact with the wires resulting in injury or death along with the dangers that can be encountered during and after lightning strikes, such as a fire.

If you make contact with an overhead line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box, or any other electrical infrastructure, do not get out of your equipment. Stay put, call 911 and Perennial at 402-362-3355 to dispatch Perennial crews to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to fire, jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, landing with feet together, hopping away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop until you are 40



feet away. Another option after exiting the equipment is to shuffle away, keeping your feet together and on the ground. Once you are out, never try to re-enter the equipment.

Following these precautions could help prevent accidents along with several of the dangers associated with the handling and stacking of bales in agriculture under power equipment.

ENERGYWISE[®]

Use less. Spend less. Do more.



It PAYS to tune up your cooling system

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP PROGRAM

A \$30 incentive

is available to qualified customers who have their current cooling system inspected and tuned-up by an HVAC contractor. If you had your cooling system tuned-up this summer be sure to have your contractor fill out the form.



Contact us for more information.

Find us on [facebook](#)

402-362-3355

www.perennialpower.com

Applications can be found on our website under Energy Library tab.

Perennial's Office
will be closed
September 7, 2020
in Observance of
Labor Day.



Smart Power Strip

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy-efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut the power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

