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ELECTRIC SAFETY TIPS
COVID-19 RESPONSE
ENERGY EFFICIENCY



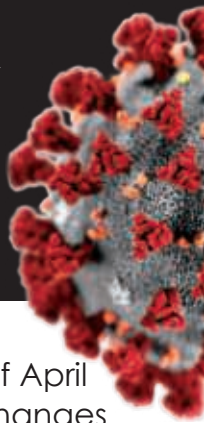
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SPPD COVID-19 OPERATIONS

In order to provide continuous, reliable service during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporarily adapted our operating procedures to protect the health of employees, and practice social distancing measures in accordance with recommendations from officials.



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In March, we gradually began to roll out procedures, and adapted them through the month of April according to local developments. Some of the key changes we've implemented include:

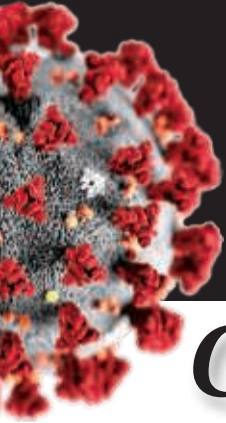
- Closure of all SPPD facilities to the public, including our Corporate Office in Grand Island and service centers in Funk, Franklin, Hastings and Central City.
- Transition of Board Meetings to an online format, utilizing Zoom applications to conduct meetings and business.
- When possible, office-based employees are working from home. We are also implementing weekly rotations for work at home the office, for those whose work requires a presence on site.
- Maintenance lineworkers are dispatching from home, in order to avoid interaction with others.
- Construction workers are working in weekly rotations, in order to minimize exposure to others.
- All lineworkers are continuing to respond to major outage events, while making efforts to maintain at least a six-foot distance while doing their work.
- Support staff, such as storekeepers, meter readers and technicians are continuing to report to work, but are isolating in their work spaces.
- We strongly encourage payments to be made via our SmartHub online payment portal. This method allows for convenience and a payment process that can be conducted from a distance.

Our goal is to do everything possible to ensure a healthy workforce, which assures the continuance of the reliable electric service you have come to expect. To that end, we ask that you maintain the six-foot rule if you encounter an employee from SPPD working in the field.



Comments or questions:
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MESSAGE FROM CEO NEAL NIEDFELDT



We are accustomed to “weathering the storm” here at SPPD. While the storm we are experiencing is uncharted territory, we are committed to the continuance of quality and reliable service. We want you to rest assured in these uncertain times that your electric service will remain uncompromised.



**NEAL NIEDFELDT
PRESIDENT/CEO**

Customers...

It has been 36 years since I first joined the ranks of employees working in public power in Nebraska. I had always believed that most experiences in “crisis” would be related to weather events and restoration efforts. It would have been difficult to perceive what would happen with our business practices during a global pandemic. And I must admit, nearly every day has presented a new surprise as we navigate our lives in this situation.

We are now more than one month into the COVID-19 pandemic’s arrival in Nebraska. I am certain that the status of this situation will change between the time this magazine was drafted until it arrives in your mailbox. But there are certainties that I can share with you that will remain true now until the day you begin exploring the contents of this publication.

EXPERIENCE, INSIGHTFUL EMPLOYEES

Obviously, no one in our organization is experienced in navigating through a crisis like the current COVID-19 pandemic. What we do have at SPPD is a leadership team that has worked together for countless hours to analyze our work practices and identify opportunities to mitigate risks. Our employees throughout the organization have done well in sharing ideas, and practicing the measures we have put in place. The highlights of those details are outlined on Page 2.

CONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

One of the greatest concerns discussed with our management team is our ability to deliver timely response following a major outage event. I am proud to say that our employees demonstrated their ability to adapt their practices to recognize health safety, while continuing to deliver timely response our customers deserve. On Easter Sunday, April 12th, our lineworkers rose to the occasion, facing grueling conditions to bring customers back into service throughout the day. Additionally, efforts to coordinate their work were effectively carried out by individual area office management. To each of our employees who spent the holiday away from loved ones, I extend sincere gratitude for your service. It is your dedication that exemplifies the commitment we all share for serving the customers of Southern Public Power District.

I hope that everyone weathers this “storm” in good health, and that we are able to return to business as usual as soon as possible. We invite you to review the most recently implemented plans relating to COVID-19 practices on our website at www.southernppd.com.

HELPING YOU FIND VALUE

COVID-19 AND ENERGY USAGE

It is probably safe to say that most households throughout our service region are spending more time at home. This means that refrigerator doors are opened more often, televisions and digital devices are more widely used and thermostats are being manipulated more often due to the additional time spent at home. This can result in greater energy usage, so we suggest talking to your family about common places where usage can be controlled.

ESTABLISH AND ABIDE BY “SNACK TIME” SCHEDULES

We've all heard about the “Freshman 15”, or weight gain that college kids experience their first year away from home. It happens when eating habits change when kids find new freedom to make their own decisions. It is likely that many adults are feeling that now, especially those who are exercising less and dealing with boredom with excessive snacking or unhealthy eating habits.

Kids at home are apt to do the same thing. They will likely spend a great deal of time checking out the refrigerator repeatedly, holding the door open while searching for their favorite snack.

Keep your refrigerator well-organized, and consider keeping your children's snacks in one area of the fridge. Show them where they can find their snacks, and remind them to close the door quickly so cooled air doesn't escape and further add to your electric bill. Schedule a regular snack time for all your kids, so they open the refrigerator and retrieve their snacks together in one opening. In the end, this may also offer additional benefits for your kids' health.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS...TALK TO KIDS ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY

We are all doing things that are outside our comfort zone as we practice social distancing. Parents of school-aged children have adopted practices of home schooling as the school year is finished up at home. You can also spend time with your kids teaching them practical lessons in self sufficiency, including responsible and sensible use of energy.

Talk to your kids about easy ways they can use less energy. Remind them of the simple practice of turning off lights or fans when they leave a room. Teach them practical skills by working on a simple energy efficiency project, such as caulking a window or installing weather stripping around a door. These lessons will be remembered. One day, they may practice what you have taught them when they move into their first home!



KEEP COOL AIR INDOORS, AND WARM AIR OUTDOORS

If you are encouraging your kids to spend time outdoors, and we hope that you are, remind them of the basic practices to minimize excessive opening and closing of exterior doors. Also, keep a lid on your cooling expenses by maintaining a comfortable, but sensible setting on your thermostat. In the summer, we recommend a setting of 78° F.

Also keep in mind the Cooling System Tune-Up EnergyWise™ incentive offered by SPPD for an annual tune-up of your cooling unit. This will assure optimal efficiency of your unit, and contribute to its upkeep and longevity. Visit www.southernpd.com to learn more.



COMMUNITY NEWS



2020 FIRST QUARTER OPERATION ROUND UP FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

STICK CREEK KIDS Playground	\$2,500
PALMER CHILD CARE Storage Shed	\$2,500
VILLAGE OF BERTRAND Veterans Marker Flag Pole	\$2,500
CAIRO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. Thermal Imaging Camera	\$2,000
CAIRO ROOTS MUSEUM Digitization	\$1,500
HALL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Digitization	\$1,500
MINDEN OPERA HOUSE Security System	\$1,500
VILLAGE OF PHILLIPS Ice Maker	\$1,000
HASTINGS LITERACY PROGRAM Tablet	\$250

SPPD's Operation ROUND UP Board of Directors approved the distribution of \$15,250 in funds to nine applicants recently.

Since its inception in 2014, a total of \$318,715 has been awarded to projects throughout our service region!

Applications for the second quarter of 2020 are due June 30th. You can learn more about this program by visiting www.southernpd.com, or contact LeAnne Doose at Southern Public Power District.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO FIVE FUTURE LINEWORKERS

High school seniors from the class of 2020 are seeing an abrupt end to their high school experience. Proms, graduations, track meets and other spring events have been significantly altered, or eliminated. We hope that youth graduating in 2020 know there are still many great things to come in the future. We're excited to shine the light brightly on five young men pursuing careers as utility lineworkers. They were selected to receive scholarships from SPPD.

COLBY SETLIK

Colby is the son of Jeff and Michelle Setlik, and a graduate of Grand Island Central Catholic in Grand Island. He has been accepted into the utility lineworker program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN

Michael is the son of Mike and Margaret O'Callaghan, and a graduate of St. Cecilia High School in Hastings. He has been accepted into the utility lineworker program at Metro Community College in Omaha.

ELI BORDEN

Eli is the son of Jeffrey and Kristina Borden, and is a graduate of Holdrege High School. He has been accepted into the utility lineworker program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

DYLAN KUCERA

Michael is the son of Jeremy and Amy Kucera, and is a graduate of Central City High School. He has been accepted into the utility lineworker program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

JOSIAH BRONSON

Josiah is the son of Jason and Joy Bronson, and is a graduate of Hastings Senior High School. He has been accepted into the utility line program at Western Community college in Scottsbluff.

IRRIGATION & LOAD MANAGEMENT

IRRIGATORS: WATCH FOR INFORMATIONAL MAILING

Later this month, load management customers will receive their annual pre-season mailing from Southern Public Power District. The information in this mailing will include a special edition newsletter with information outlining processes and procedures in place during the irrigation season.

Additionally, you will find an acknowledgment of your account listings, and a calendar outlining your days of control for 2020. This mailing offers a final opportunity to review the status of your accounts, your control groups, and the days of control you are assigned for the summer. Give these items your attention before the rush of the season takes hold!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming load management season, we encourage you to contact our Irrigation Services Department.

LOAD MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Follow us on Twitter, or join our Load Management group on Facebook for up-to-the-minute load management updates.

Updates will also be provided on KRVN 880-AM Radio.

Announcements occur at 8:29 AM every weekday. Early release messages air on the "59" from 4:59 through 9:59 PM.



SAFETY BASICS

- Keep cultivators, sprayers and planters **AT LEAST 10 FEET** from power lines and electrical facilities.
- Inspect entrances into fields to ensure adequate clearance for equipment. A spotter can also offer a good vantage point to verify that entry points offer enough clearance.
- Use a spotter when maneuvering large equipment.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If your equipment contacts a power line, remain inside the vehicle until linemen from SPPD arrive to de-energize the line. Stepping out of the equipment creates a path from the equipment to the ground, and electricity will use YOU as a path.
- Talk to anyone helping you on your farm during planting season, especially those who are not accustomed to doing agricultural work. Remind everyone of safety practices and re-view hazards daily.
- Be cautious if you are tired. Often, when you are putting in long hours and short changing yourself on sleep, your level of awareness and reaction time is minimized.

Electrical accidents happen when you aren't aware of your surroundings.

*Look up.
Look out.
LIVE!*



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES



Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is over 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave it to the pros. Contact a qualified electrician.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

PRACTICE "DISTANCING" FROM ELECTRICAL FACILITIES

The concept of distancing is more than just a "buzz word" in relation to COVID-19. Its practice should also be applied when you think about electrical facilities when at work or play outdoors.

- Kids--electrical substations should NOT be utilized as a playground--keep your distance. Dangerous equipment inside delivers power to your home, and a deadly shock. Do not enter these facilities. If you see an open gate, contact SPPD.
- If you are moving a large structure, do not approach that line without first contacting SPPD or the local utility. Only authorized utility workers are permitted to maneuver electrical infrastructure to allow a large load to pass beneath.
- If you see a fallen powerline, stay back! You know by now how to keep a distance, and we urge you to maintain approximately 10 feet from a fallen line, and contact the electric utility.
- Anytime you are handling objects such as ladders, irrigation pipe, or even flying a kite, **look up, look out, and LIVE.** Keep your distance when handling these objects.

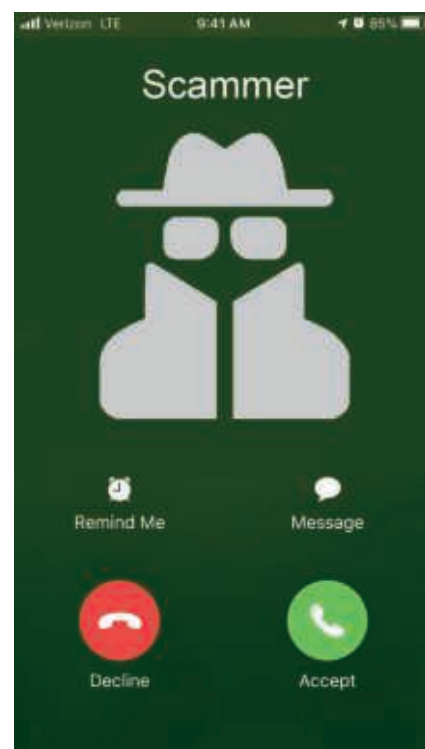
BEWARE OF SCAMMING TECHNIQUES

Last month we warned you about the techniques deployed by scammers, and this is a message we'd like to remind you about again.

Scammers tend to deploy their dishonest methods during times when people are vulnerable. With so much uncertainty in our world today, do not allow these crooks to capitalize on the situation with the pandemic. Their threats can seem daunting, but we urge you to turn away if they reach out to you.

Typically, scammers "spoof" the phone system, making it appear that the call is coming from SPPD. They claim to represent our customer services team, and demand payment from customers on bills they claim are overdue. They will ask for credit, debit or checking account information over the phone to make a payment. They may also ask people to purchase a payment card, such as a Green Dot or gift card from a nearby store. Then, they instruct the victim to call them back with the numbers.

Always remember that SPPD NEVER utilizes tactics like this to collect for bill payments or any other services. If you receive a call like this, do not offer any form of payment, or share your personal information. Contact law enforcement, and SPPD at 800-579-3019.



RECIPE

LEMON CHEESECAKE BARS

CRUST:

1-1/2 C. shortbread
cookie crumbs
1 C. all-purpose flour
1/2 C. brown sugar
1/2 C. cold butter

CHEESECAKE FILLING:

2 8-oz. pkgs cream
cheese, softened
2 C. white sugar
4 eggs
4 T. all-purpose flour
1/2 C. lemon juice
3 T. lemon zest
1/2 tsp. baking powder
4 T. confectioners' sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9x13-inch baking pan with aluminum foil.
2. Mix shortbread crumbs, flour, and brown sugar in a medium bowl. Cut in butter using 2 knives or a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press over the bottom of the prepared pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and white sugar using an electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs and flour. Mix well. Blend in lemon juice, lemon zest and baking powder. Pour filling over the crust.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until center is set, 25-28 minutes. Let cool completely, at least 45 minutes. Refrigerate until well chilled, about 2 hours.

Nutrition per serving: 411 calories; 20.9 g total fat; 95 mg cholesterol; 234 mg sodium. 52.6 g carbohydrates; 6 g protein.

