

SPD Newsletter

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF LIGHTING THE WAY

September 2016 Series 33, Issue 9

SPD Cookbooks Have Hit The Press!

Production is underway on Southern's Special Edition 80th Anniversary Cookbook, and we are on target to make these books available for pick-up in October!

Customers who submitted their book reservation form prior to September 1st can pick those books up at their chosen Southern Power District location beginning Wednesday, October 5th.

Customers who did not return a pre-order form can pick up a book at any of our five service locations, *while our additional supply lasts*. Southern Power District customers can receive one book at no cost, and additional books are available for \$10 per book.

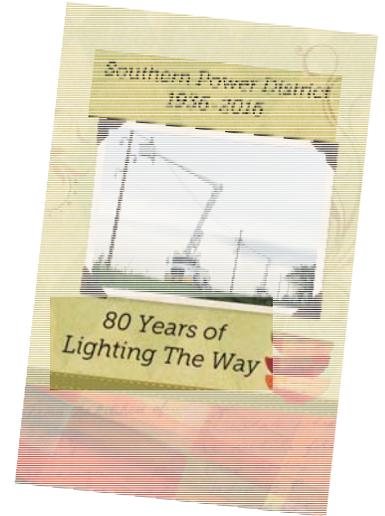
An added reminder of our locations, and their hours of public access:

OPEN 8 AM-12 NOON, Monday-Friday:

Central City, 1616 Highway 14
 Hastings, 7140 US Highway 6
 Holdrege, 1605 US Highway 6

OPEN 8 AM-5 PM, Monday-Friday:

Franklin, 101 16th Avenue
 Grand Island, 4550 West Husker Highway



ROUND UP Presentations

The ROUND UP Program is touching our communities in a variety of ways. From fire detection equipment and radios to park equipment and performing arts, there are a number of ways this program can help out in your community as well. Contact LeAnne Doose at Southern Power District to inquire about applying for grant funds for a local project.



- ▶ Campbell Community Foundation: American Legion Bathroom Remodel
- ▶ Alda Volunteer Fire: Rescue Cutters
- ▶ Grand Island Little Theatre: Headset Microphones
- ▶ Wood River Volunteer Fire: Radios
- ▶ Trumbull Volunteer Fire: Thermal Imaging Camera

Seal Up Your Building Envelope

When it comes to energy efficiency in your home or business, experts often refer to the “building envelope” as a place to start for energy saving opportunities. In simple terms, the building envelope includes physical components that separate indoors from outdoors. These usually include exterior walls, foundations, roofs, windows and doors.

Improving building envelope efficiency is generally a low-cost, high-return method for increasing a home’s efficient use of energy. When an owner incorporates these improvements as the structure is being built, small additional costs provide energy savings that pay for themselves year after year. If your home is over 20 years old, there are efficiency opportunities you can incorporate that will save you money for years to come!

Starting with least expensive improvements, tighten your place up. Air leaks or infiltration cause some of the biggest heat losses in older structures and can account for almost 30 percent of total heat lost. Check for cracks and gaps around all penetrations through insulated floors, exterior walls and ceilings. These can be caused by things such as utility lines, exhaust pipes, air conditioning line sets and plumbing. Look along the sill plate and band joist at the top of your foundation walls. Examine fireplace dampers, attic access hatches and light fixtures in insulated ceilings.

Caulk works best for cracks less than a quarter-inch wide. When purchasing caulks make sure they are recommended for the surface you are sealing. For larger cracks and gaps, expanding foam sealant is better as long as gaps and holes are protected from sunlight and moisture.

Next, it is time to insulate. The typical home loses over 45 percent of its heat through external walls, roof and floor. Unfortunately, installing insulation into existing buildings can be difficult in many areas. In a much older home, if you are not sure if the walls are insulated, you might be able to tell by removing an outlet cover and looking into the wall cavity.

Otherwise, find a closet (or cabinet) along an exterior wall and drill two quarter-inch holes, one above the other, in the wall about four inches apart. Shine a flashlight into one hole while looking into the other. If you can see your light, the wall is probably not insulated. If this is so, the best option is to bring in an insulation contractor to blow cellulose or fiberglass into the walls.

Adding insulation to an unheated attic can be much easier. If there is no floor in the attic, simply add more loose fill or unfaced fiberglass batt insulation. If you have a floor in the attic, you may need to remove the floor before adding insulation. You should have 12-15 inches of evenly covering insulation to maximize cost-effectiveness.

While windows are often the first thing many people think about to save energy, they are usually the most expensive upgrade. They rarely pay back their cost quickly enough to be a good investment based on energy savings alone. If your existing windows are in fairly good shape, it will be more cost-effective to improve their efficiency with weather stripping and caulk. But if your existing windows only have single panes, have rotted or damaged wood, cracked glass, poorly fitting sashes or locks that do not work, you may be better off replacing them. Finally, if other reasons such as comfort, appearance or cleaning convenience justify replacing your windows, it is highly recommended to invest the small added cost in highly efficient windows rather than minimum-performance ones.

Wood is still the most common construction material for windows, and it insulates fairly well. Aluminum has been used extensively, but unless their design incorporates a thermal break, simple aluminum frames are very inefficient because aluminum easily conducts heat. Vinyl

Attic Insulation Incentive

It pays to have the right amount of insulation in your attic, and we have an incentive available to offset the cost. Visit www.southernpd.com for more information. If you have questions about qualification, contact Sam Reinke.

windows have become popular and some vinyl frames are insulated using fiberglass to reduce heat transfer better than wood.

As with many consumer products, always look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you are purchasing an approved level of quality and efficiency. The best windows today insulate almost four times better than best available windows from fifteen years ago. When selecting, compare warranties against the loss of the air seal. Also, remember that it is crazy to spend thousands of dollars on new windows only to have an amateur contractor install them. High-performance windows cannot achieve their efficiency ratings if they are installed improperly with gaps and air leaks around the frame.

To find more ways to manage energy costs, contact Sam Reinke at Southern Power District. He can tell you more about EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency financial incentives to offset the cost of making your home or business more energy efficient.

Load Management Program

Demand for electricity during the summer increases greatly. Not only do air conditioners run non-stop, but farmers are utilizing their irrigation systems, especially during the months of July and August. These months comprise a critical time here at Southern, because we must have facilities in place to deliver power efficiently to meet this highest-peak time period.

Southern participates in a unique partnership involving our irrigation customers, and our wholesale power provider, Nebraska Public Power District. With the added load of our irrigation customer demand in the summer, the Load Management Program offers a unique program for irrigation customers to curtail their energy usage during peak demand times. Here's how it works:

- **Irrigation customers can elect to participate in the load management program.** Prior to the beginning of the irrigation season, the customer chooses the level of control they are comfortable using. The options range from "two day" control to "anytime" control. The control levels are matched with a reduced rate, according to the level of control selected.
- **When demand rises above a pre-determined threshold, control goes into effect.** Demand is constantly monitored by NPPD. When demand rises, NPPD sends signals to its wholesale customers, such as Southern Power District, to begin implementing control.
- **Southern begins applying control across participating load management customers.** Participating customers are grouped into categories based upon their location and desired level of control. Staff at Southern begin communicating with customers, indicating what time control will begin. We utilize local radio, text messaging and social media to share those messages. Signals are deployed to equipment installed at each irrigation service site to shut off wells during the control period. Daily control can last up to 12 hours, ranging between 9 AM and 11 PM.
- **When the peak is expected to drop, signals are sent to restore power to controlled services.** Again, Southern's irrigation staff begins the process to reverse control, and bring service back to the controlled wells.

Putting it into perspective, one megawatt controlled equals approximately 20-22 pivot systems. On a day with high demand, we could see a drop, with control applied, of approximately 90 megawatts, or 1,800-1,980 pivot systems! As control is applied, we work hard to assure that we only shed enough load to stay beneath the threshold determined at the beginning of the season. Allowing our farmers to have as much watering time as possible remains at the front of our minds.

As a whole, the Load Management Program provides a benefit to ALL customers. One of the critical factors in determining the District's wholesale power rate is our "highest peaks" attained. Keeping those peaks as low as possible has a beneficial effect on the rates that all customers will ultimately pay.



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SERVICE CENTERS:

Grand Island (308) 384-2202
Central City (308) 946-2964
Franklin (308) 425-6217
Hastings (402) 751-2535
Holdrege (308)-995-5112
Toll Free 1-888-484-2470

GENERAL OFFICE:

384-2350 or 1-800-652-2013

CUSTOMER SERVICE

381-5942, 1-800-579-3019

ON THE WEB AT:

www.southernpd.com

This newsletter is published as a service to Southern Power District's customers.

Comments or questions?

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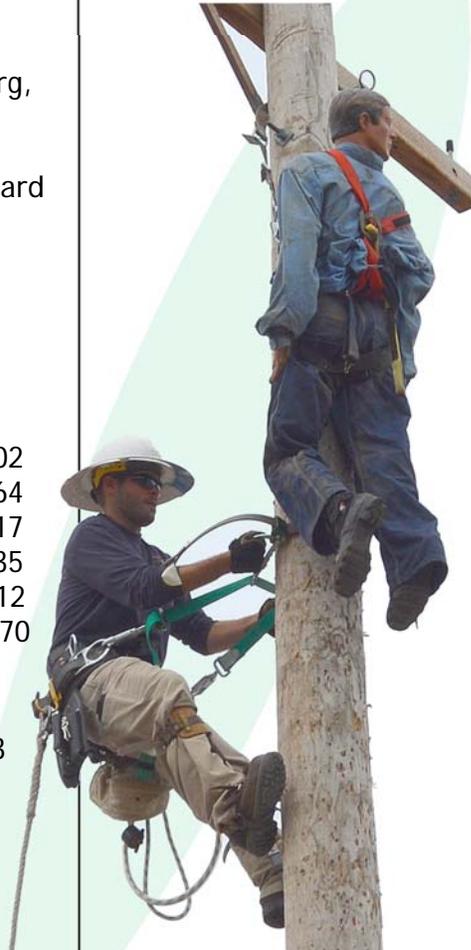


We Welcome Dan Thies

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Dan Thies, who has joined our team as an Apprentice Linemen at our Hastings Service Center. Dan comes to Southern from Omaha Public Power District. We are very pleased to have him on our team!



Linemen Practice Rescue Training



It is a difficult situation to imagine...a lineman in need of rescue at a pole top. But given how high emotions would run in that scenario, each year, our linemen practice pole top rescue training. Keeping those skills sharp could make all the difference in the successful rescue of a co-worker.

In a pole top rescue, the lineman is required to climb a pole to reach the "injured" lineman, as illustrated in the photo at left. Once there, they set up the ropes that would lower the injured man, and cut him loose from the harness that left them hanging safely up above. Then, they gently lower the man to the ground so that rescue procedures can be administered as needed for the injury the lineman may have experienced.

It is a very grim subject to prepare for, and we truly hope this is a skill our linemen will never need to use.

LEFT: Grand Island Lineman Jeremy Imus carries out his rescue training for the year.

Country Apple Dumplings

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
- 2 (10-oz.) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 1 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. white sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 (12-fl. oz.) can or bottle Mountain Dew

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
2. Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. Pinch to seal and place in the baking dish.
3. Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour Mountain Dew over the dumplings.
4. Bake for 35-45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.