



## CELEBRATING *Public Power*

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Low cost, locally owned and operated,  
plus many more benefits.  
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## NEBRASKA LINEWORKERS RODEO

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Check out photos and results from the  
2022 NE Lineworkers Rodeo  
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## OPERATION ROUND-UP

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2nd Quarter Recipients announced and  
how you can sign up to donate!  
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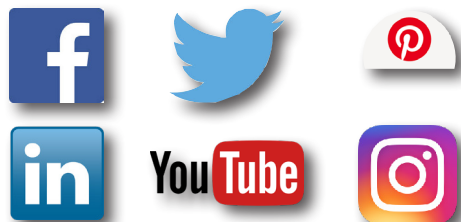
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# CELEBRATING

October in Nebraska and across the nation is known as Public Power Month, where we celebrate all that public power has to offer!

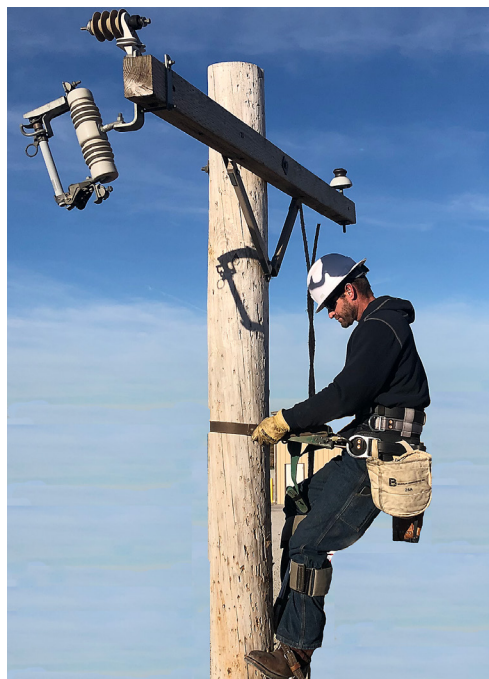
For those who don't know, Nebraska is the only state in the nation that is 100% publicly powered. In other words, we're the only state where every customer receives electric service from a local, publicly owned utility. But what does that mean, and why is it even important?

Well, public power provides some unique benefits that private owned utilities can't always offer. One major one? Affordability. This often comes as the cornerstone for our customers, and we're proud to say in Nebraska that since our public power utilities are all not-for-profit, we offer some of the lowest rates in the nation!

Not only are our rates some of the lowest, but we also provide an

excellent value. Did you know that an entire day's worth of electricity for a homeowner in Nebraska is about \$3.48, on average? In today's day and age, there isn't much you can get for that, let alone an entire day's worth of something!

Along with these steadfast benefits, public power in the state also offers high reliability, with Nebraska ranking as one of the top states in the nation for electric grid reliability. We are also able



# Public Power

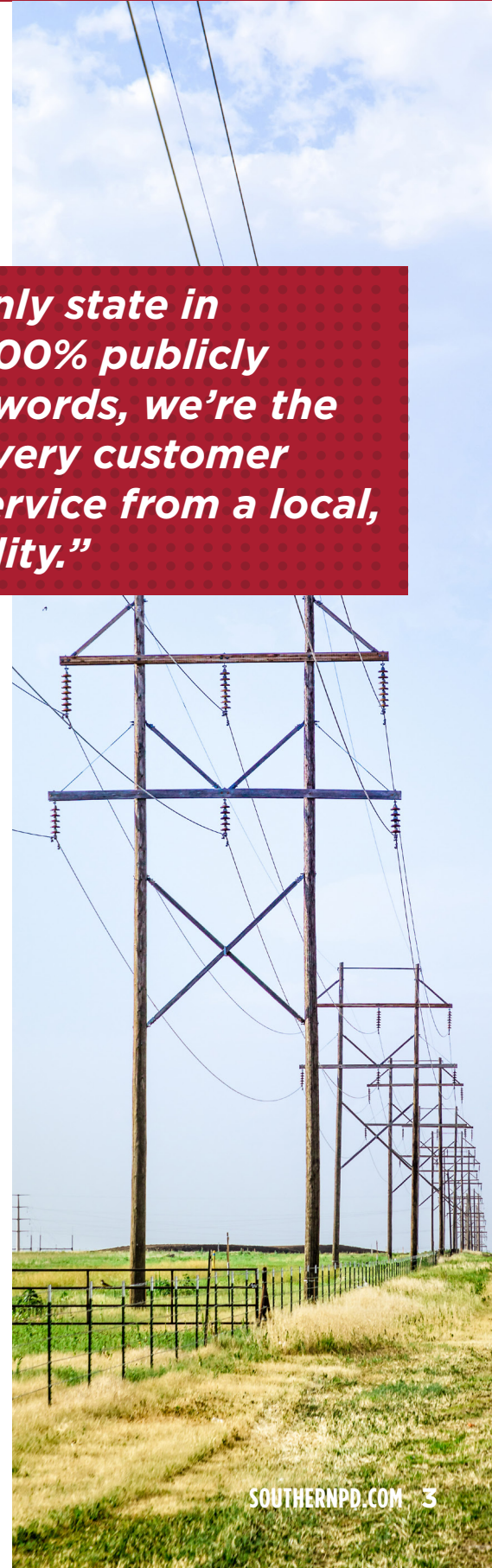
to provide direct community support in our areas, not only with the more than \$80 million in taxes or in-lieu of tax payments and local employment, but also with our community programs that directly benefit the community. Here at Southern Public Power District, we offer our customers the opportunity to donate money to the Operation Round Up Program where over \$450,000 have been given back to local communities to support improvement projects! You can read more about our Operation Round Up program on Page \_\_\_ of this newsletter!

As the humble kind here in Nebraska, we don't typically like to brag, but it's hard not to when talking about Public Power! What's more? Well, it's all because of YOU. Our Customers. Public power's foundation

is being locally owned and operated, with local control. All decisions are made at the local level, by publicly elected officials who are community residents, not share-holders.

***“Nebraska is the only state in the nation that is 100% publicly powered. In other words, we’re the only state where every customer receives electric service from a local, publicly owned utility.”***

If that isn't something to brag about, I don't know what is! Check out **publicpowered.com** for more details on the benefits of Public Power in the state of Nebraska! You can also enter to win a “Uniquely Nebraska” T-shirt and other prizes by following our Facebook page at Southern Public Power District.







# HARVEST Safety

Look Up and Look Out. It may be a catchy slogan, but for farmers in rural areas, it should be a way of life during harvest season.

Accidentally hitting power lines becomes a significant hazard during harvest season, as farmers begin moving their equipment back into the fields, many of which are tall enough to accidentally contact live lines. Avoiding power lines is the best way to stay safe, but what should you do if contact does happen?

The most important thing is to remain inside of the equipment until help can arrive. Call for help as soon as you recognize that contact was made, to ensure Southern PPD is dispatched to de-energize the lines. If you are forced to exit the

vehicle for any reason, such as a fire, the appropriate action is to jump – not step – with both feet landing on the ground at the same time. Do not touch the vehicle and ground at the same time and begin shuffling your feet on the ground to safety. Never simply step out of the vehicle – the person must jump clear of the equipment to avoid electrocution.

SafeElectricity.org offers some great tips to keep farmers safe during this harvest season.

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate

distance, and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.

- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.

Have a safe and healthy harvest season!





On Friday, July 22nd, 7 members from the Southern Public Power District Team traveled to Broken Bow to compete in the annual Nebraska Lineworker's Rodeo. The Rodeo is meant to test the line workers' skills and knowledge in a variety of challenges. Each challenge is then judged to determine how safe and efficient each task was completed. The best of the best are then awarded and have bragging rights until next year's Rodeo.

Representing Southern PPD in this year's rodeo was Zach Butt, Jacob Kubicka, Samuel Gnagy, Tyler Fullerberth, Matt Lovejoy, Myles Butt, and Travis Forbis (seen in the Top Right photo).

This year, Jacob Kubicka walked away with 3rd Place in the Apprentice category for the Mystery Fused Cutout Relocation challenge.

## *scenes from the* **NEBRASKA LINEWORKERS RODEO**





# Fresh FACES



**DENTON STARK**  
Journeyman Lineman



**JENNIFER TUREK**  
Energy Services Customer  
Service Representative



**SHANNON PEARD**  
Chief Financial Officer

Since May, we've had quite a few new faces around Southern that we feel need to be introduced! Help us to welcome to the team Denton, Jennifer, and Shannon!

Denton may look familiar, as he was featured in a past newsletter as one of our interns! He came on board in July as a full time teammate, as did Jennifer for Energy Services! Shannon joined the Southern Team in May as the new CFO. All three can be found based out of Grand Island! Welcome to the team!

## 2nd Quarter Funds Awarded for ORU



2022 is off to a blazing-fast start, with the 2nd quarter of the year having flown by. However, with that, we've been honored to award another round of recipients with Grant Funds from the Operation Round Up (ORU) program.

As a reminder, this program is fully funded by YOU, our wonderful

customers. The money you donate each month by rounding up your bill goes directly back to local communities in the Southern Public Power District Service Area to fund projects by local non-profits to make improvements to their groups and their communities.

Since the program's inception, over \$450,000 have been awarded back to local communities!

If you are currently not participating in donating to this program and would like to, contact our Customer Services Department at 308-384-2350.

**Village of Hordville \$1,500**

**Central City VFD \$2,000**

**Hastings Rural FD \$2,000**

**Wood River Rescue \$500**

**Campbell VFD \$2,000**

This quarter's funds were awarded to the above organizations for items such as new two-way communication radios, security systems, testing and rescue equipment.

# OCTOBER: FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and according to the U.S. Fire Administration, “faulty home electrical wiring causes 26,000 residential fires a year, hundreds of deaths, and thousands of injuries.”

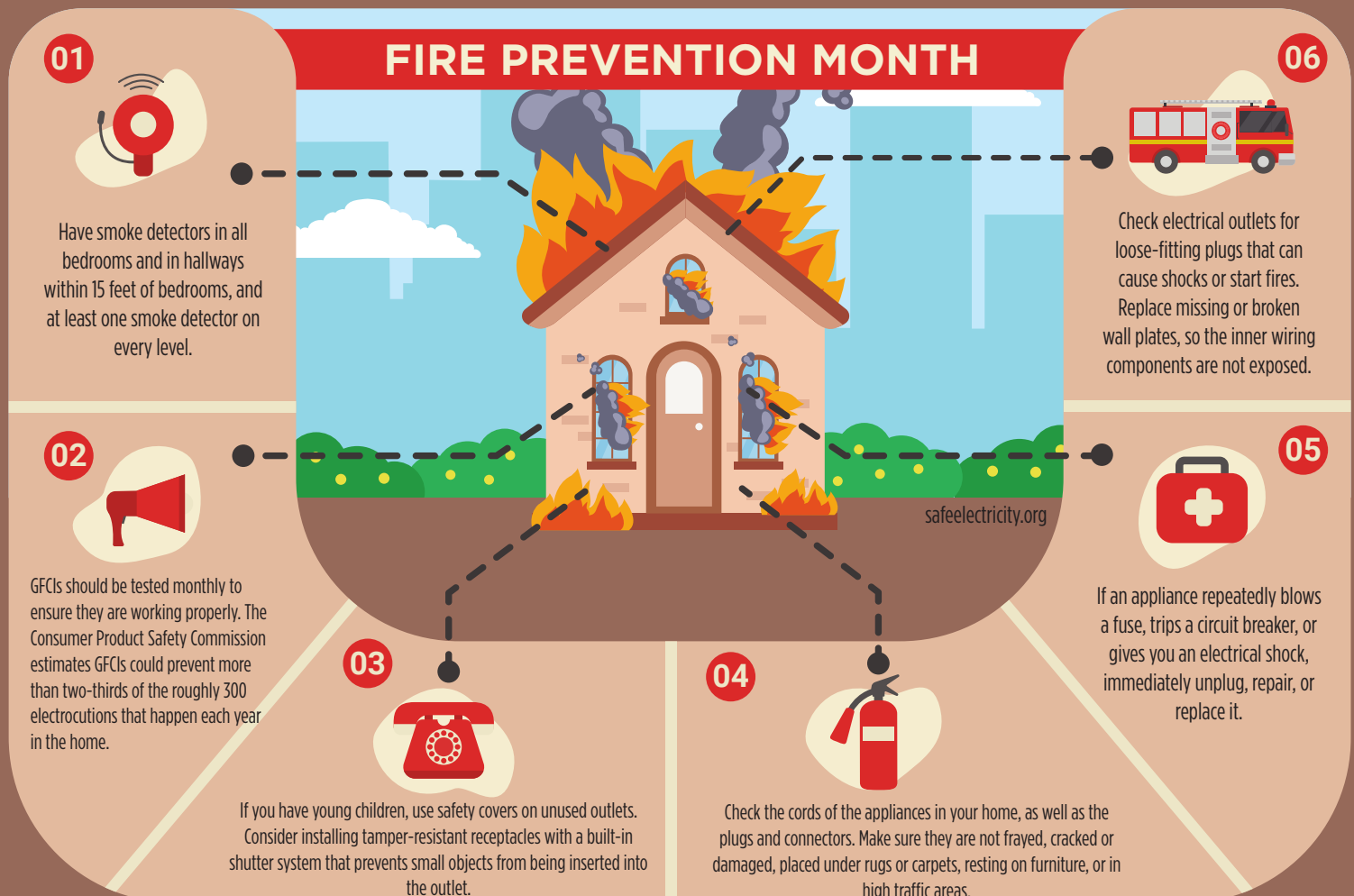
Most of the time, electrical hazards often go unnoticed and unaddressed until it is too late. Below are some great tips and tricks for addressing some of these electrical hazards before they become a big problem!

The Red Cross recommends that every family have a fire escape plan in place, and to practice it twice a year. If a fire occurs, you may have as little as two minutes to escape, so having early detection from a smoke alarm, and a regularly practiced escape plan can save the lives of you and your family.

The Red Cross also has some great resources online for home fire prevention and preparation,

including a Fire Safety Checklist. You can find those resources at [redcross.org/get-help](https://redcross.org/get-help) or by searching “Fire Safety” on the Red Cross Website.

Above all else, if a fire does occur in your home, get out, stay out, and call for help. Never go back inside for anything or anyone, as the risks include structural integrity to the building, as well as smoke inhalation and burns. Wait for professional help to arrive.



# HAPPY Halloween

## TIPS TO STAY SAFE THIS SPOOKY SEASON

1. Place strips of reflective tape on the back and front of costumes, so drivers can better see your child.
2. Use alternative to candles in your pumpkins, such as a flashlight or a battery-operated candle.
3. Turn on outdoor lights, and replace burnt-out bulbs.
4. Keep in mind that gum and hard candy can pose a choking risk for young children.
5. Use the sidewalk whenever possible. If there's no sidewalk, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.



[https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/safety-and-injury-prevention/halloween\\_safety](https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/safety-and-injury-prevention/halloween_safety)

## CREAMY CARAMEL APPLE TAQUITOS

- Apple Mixture:
  - 2 apples, peeled, cored, and diced
  - 2 tablespoons butter
  - 2 tablespoons sugar
  - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Cream Cheese Filling:
  - 4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
  - 1/4 cup caramel syrup, (more for dipping later)
- 1 package Old El Paso flour tortillas for soft tacos and fajitas, (6-inch, 10 count)
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- Preheat oven to 400 degrees and spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.
- In a skillet, add the apples, butter, sugar, and cinnamon. Cook for 5-7 minutes over medium heat until apples are soft. Remove from heat and set aside.
- In a small bowl mix the cream cheese and caramel syrup together until smooth.
- Spoon about 1 tablespoon of the cream cheese mixture on the bottom 1/3 of each tortilla and top with a spoonful of the apple mixture. Roll up tightly.
- On a plate combine the sugar and cinnamon. Brush each tortilla well with the butter and sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar mixture. Place seam side down on the prepared baking dish.
- Bake for 10-15 minutes or until tortillas are golden brown. Cool slightly and serve with additional caramel for dipping.

Nutrition Information: YIELD: 10 SERVING SIZE: 1 grams  
Amount Per Serving: UNSATURATED FAT: 0g  
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<https://www.the-girl-who-ate-everything.com/creamy-caramel-apple-taquitos/>



Who Ate Everything