



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager



CO-OP NEWS

APRIL 2019

Michael M. Sussex



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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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May through September

Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

October through April

Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.



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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



Storm sweeps through

As I write this article, it's the 14th of March and we are on the tail end of what the national media is calling the "Bomb Cyclone" storm.

As this storm approached, we had quite a bit of anxiety here at the cooperative. Our crews prepared their trucks and themselves for a long shift of restoring power outages. The morning of the 13th was dicey around here and we kept all our crews in at the headquarters in anticipation of outages. As the day progressed the weather got worse, but we weren't getting any reports of anyone out of power. Despite the severe conditions, we went all day without a report of an outage.

Almost a full day without outages

Just about the time we were about to pack up and head home for the day, we started to receive phone calls from the LaGrange area stating power had been lost. After a little investigating we realized the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) 115kV line that feeds our substations was out of service. This delivery point feeds five of our substations (LaGrange, Four Corners, Werner, ONEOK Meriden, and Tallgrass LaGrange), which serve approximately 500 members.

No lines down

When this type of outage occurs, it puts us in a tough spot when deciding to restore power. Do we start switching our system to a new delivery point (if possible), or do we wait and see if WAPA can restore power to the original delivery point?

Our goal is always to restore power as quickly as possible, which was even more important on this day because of the adverse conditions. We decided to try to energize all five



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Phyllis Price

**Wyrulec Company's
summer hours
start April 29th:
6:30 am to 5:00 pm**

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Thank a lineman

National studies consistently rank power line installation and repair among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air, wearing heavy equipment, and working directly with high voltage



Randall May

Wyrulec linemen Willy Unverzagt and DJ Duffield climb a pole to make repairs

creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Wyrulec's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day

and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to serve their local community.

Family Support System

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and

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Storm sweeps through

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substations off our Lyman Yoder delivery point, since WAPA's timeline was unknown.

Big risk for big reasons

We had never tried picking up this much load from that delivery point before. In doing so, we would now have 10 substations energized from one delivery point. This is literally putting all your eggs in one basket!

We ran the risk of losing power to all 10 substations if the delivery point failed as a result of the additional load. The good news is - the line held, and we restored power to all our members at 7:00 p.m., after a 3-hour outage.

This was a gigantic risk, but the alternative was leaving 500 members without power until the next morning, so we decided to push the limits.

After restoring power, our crews tried to help WAPA restore power on the LaGrange 115kV. Ultimately, they made the decision that it was too dangerous to keep working, due to visibility.

The next morning, we went back to work, trying to get our system back to normal. At 1:00 p.m. we were successful in switching those five substations back to the LaGrange delivery point.

I want to thank all the Wyrulec employees for working as a team, staying late to answer the phones personally, and braving the weather. The best news of all - we didn't have any accidents, and everyone returned home safely!!

If you have any questions about your cooperative, you can reach me via email at rschilreff@wyrulec.com or on my cell phone at 307-575-2435.



©2016 Yi, Ma, Dreamstime.com

Thank a lineman

Continued from previous page ■ ————— supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means, in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community Commitment

In Goshen County and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams or volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

Thank You

Monday April 8th is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Wyrulec's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. If you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines, and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



Archie Johnson

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



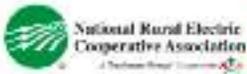
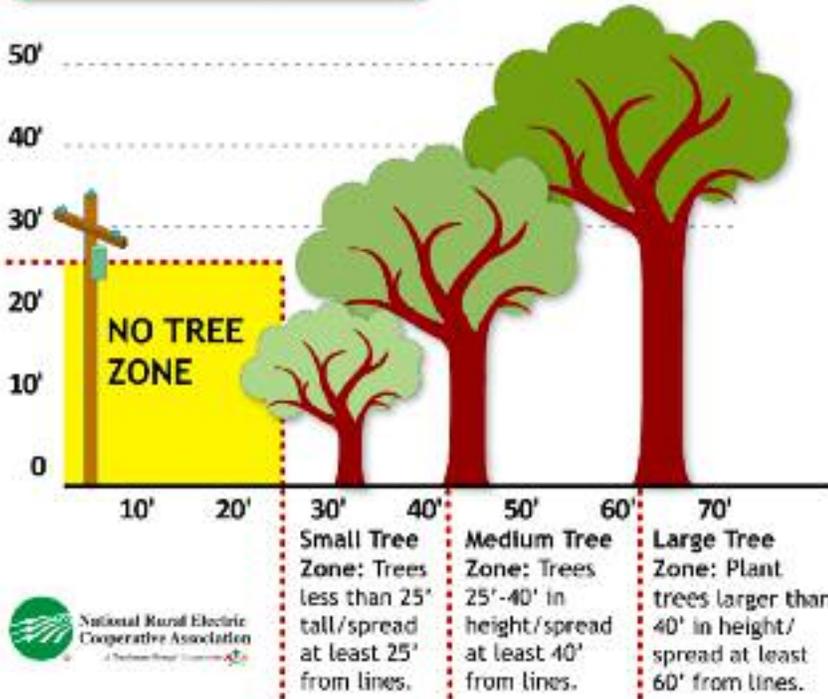
5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

Tree Planting Guide



What is it about air that conducts electricity?

Impurities

What part of an atom moves an electrical charge?

Electron

Can a home electricity generator backfeed onto a power line and electrocute a lineman if not hooked up properly?

Yes. Always involve a licensed professional when connecting a home generation system to an electrical system which also uses (or can use) electricity from the utility

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



If you see your name in these pages, contact Wyrulec Company at

307-837-2225 for your **\$25** bill credit!

Youth Energy Leadership Camp ❖ July 8-12, 2019

Deadline is fast approaching... **R.S.V.P. by May 17th** to Wyrulec Company

For students who are currently in 9th, 10th or 11th grade

Camp takes place at Halsey, Nebraska



2019 Youth Energy Leadership Camp RSVP Form

Name _____ Age _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____ Phone number (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name of parents or guardian _____

Sponsoring rural electric system _____