



[Rural Life]

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

BY JACK JOHNSTON || CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER || JACKJ@SECPA.COM

“Safety” is a universal concept that is mentioned often and loosely used. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electricity. For us, it's our number one priority. We've created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus and vigilance.

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for linemen. In addition to a dedicated chief safety officer, we also have an employee-run safety committee whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry, and we have specific procedures that our linemen follow when dealing with electricity. For example, we require our linemen to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. We also conduct onsite job hazard briefings (aka “tailgate sessions”) before we begin any work. Our Safety Committee has monthly meetings

where everything related to promoting and improving safety is discussed including monitoring and tracking near-miss accidents in order to understand them and share lessons learned. *[WIN* J.E. Wisemon Acct# 2301320000]*

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to determine patterns. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

To ensure we are always on the best track, our insurance cooperative conducts an annual safety inspection. We also engaged in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, which makes unannounced, onsite safety assessments every three years.

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidental electrocutions in their own homes. Many of these accidents are pre-



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ventable, so we have conducted numerous electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. Don't attempt electrical projects (even if they seem simple) or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad-mounted transformers that look amiss.

So, please be mindful when it comes to electricity. Pause and take the extra time to ensure safety.

**OFFICES
CLOSED
MONDAY,
MAY 28**
in observance of
**MEMORIAL
DAY**



2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Southeast Colorado Power Association \$1,000 Scholarship Winners:



HAYDEN CARTER
Senior, Crowley County High School
Parents – Matthew and Melinda Carter



MICAH CRANE
Senior, Pritchett High School
Parents – Mark and Jennelle Crane



ZACH WILSON
Senior, Walsh High School
Parents – Mike and Mary Lou Wilson

Tri-State Generation & Transmission \$1,000 Winner:

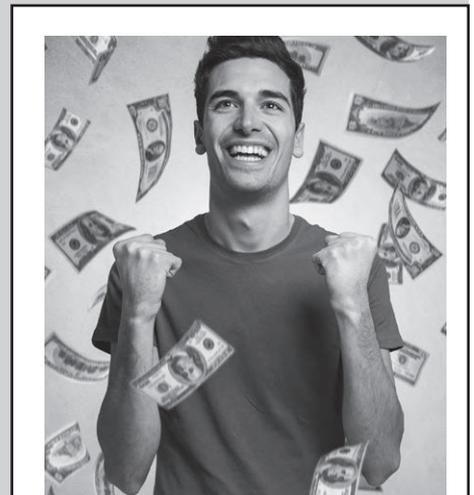


HALEIGH PROSSER
Senior, Wiley High School
Parents – Andrew and Robin Prosser

Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 Winner:



JACKLYNN SNYDER
Senior, Rocky Ford High School
Parents – Kermit and Rhonda Snyder



YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

Last month's winner is Max Owens
Acct.# 1501180000.



(800) 657-7149

INTERNET - PHONE - FIBER - WIRELESS

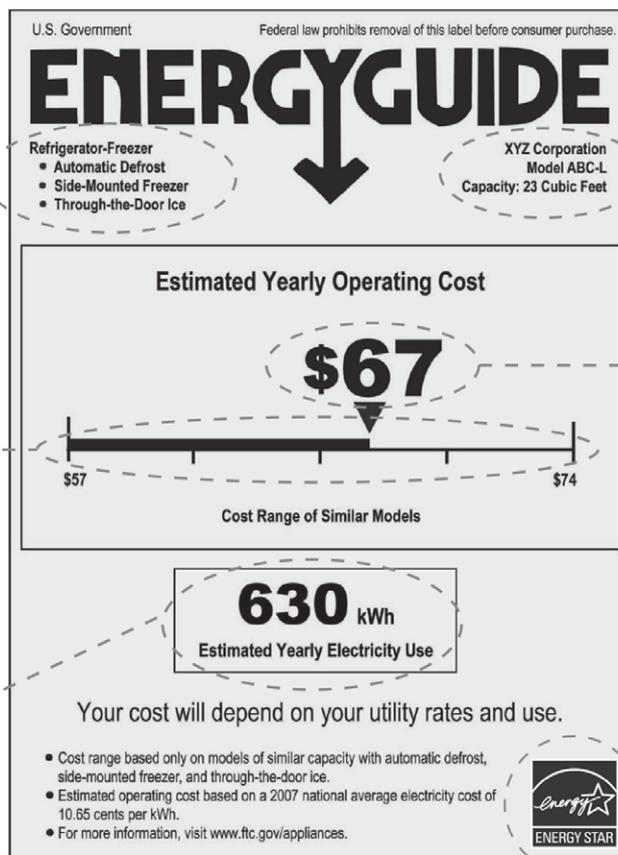
www.secom.net

Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.



The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

SUMMER SAFETY

FOR KIDS

To learn more
about safe outdoor play visit:

 Safe
Electricity.org

- Fly kites in large open spaces away from overhead power lines.
- Always check trees for nearby power lines before climbing. Choose another tree if lines are close by.
- Keep long tools like pool skimmers stored and secure when not in use. They can be long enough to reach electrical lines connected to the home.
- Ensure all outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electric shock.
- Recognize the green metal boxes in yards contain electrical equipment and are not toys.



WATER RECREATION WORDS OF WISDOM

The unofficial start of summer is upon us. For many, this means heading outside to fire up the grill, play catch and go swimming. Southeast Colorado Power has some precautionary advice before you take a dip in a pool or lake this summer.

Be aware of electronics near a pool. Keep electrical appliances, equipment and cords at least 6 feet away from water. When possible, refrain from using electrical devices around a water area. Instead, opt for battery-powered electronics.

Many accidents can be avoided by properly installing ground fault circuit interrupters near pools, spas, hot tubs and docks. If there is any loss of current that takes place, the outlet will immediately shut off, preventing an electrical shock.

Never swim near a dock, marina or boatyard. Boats and docks can charge the water surrounding them with electricity, which can lead to electric shock drowning. If you feeling a tingling while in the water, swim in the other direction and exit the water as soon as possible. Avoid using

metal ladders or rails, as they can be conductors of electricity.

Here are a few other tips for swimming safety:

- When you leave a pool or body of water, do not touch any electrical devices until you are toweled off and are dry.
- Look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker or work intermittently.
- Do not swim before, during or after thunderstorms.
- Know where electrical switches and circuit breakers are for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, and know how to operate them.
- When cleaning the pool, know where any overhead power lines are to avoid making contact with them while using long-handled tools.

For other tips and tools on how to swim safely this summer, visit SafeElectricity.org.

