

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

Currents

Irrigation Equipment Safety

page 3

Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

page 5

© Leah Pickering - Blaine County
2014 Calendar

Newsletter of the

Custer Public Power District

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

Custer Public Power District Newsletter is published bimonthly by:

Custer Public Power District
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Follow us on:



From the GENERAL MANAGER'S desk

Security Lights to Yard Lights

For centuries civilization has been marked with light. I'm sure there are many out there who can remember the kerosene lamps, oil lamps or some kind of flammable material that provided light. Light let people know that there wasn't always darkness. Lighting became vital in towns and cities dating back to the Roman empire, and before.

When electricity was first discovered, the light was the first thing that was produced to replace the more volatile flame. When Custer Public Power District was formed, light was the first thing hooked up so people could see at night and extend the day into the darkness. For those that remember when electricity first came to their home, their neighbors were jealous because they could see the light of our original security lights. Those lights went by many names, but security lights stuck.

In today's world, they are no longer called security lights. While in the past, the lights gave a sense of security when they were installed in the yard, it really is nothing more than a light.

All of this brings me too today. That yard light in your front yard or back yard, whichever you prefer, has gone through a multitude of changes over the years. It was mercury vapor or high-pressure sodium, it all depended on whether you wanted the yellow glow or the bright light. Custer PPD has also gone through many changes in the way we handle lighting your yard. Early on it was a sense of security, and probably is today

to some extent, but today to most customers it's just a light. It's a light in the yard, corral barn calving shed, and the list can go on and on.

Which light is owned by Custer PPD? Which light is owned by you? Is it rented? Is it behind the meter? Is it rented and on your barn? Is it rented and on the meter pole? Is it metered and on your pole, but who owns that light?

These are all questions that Custer PPD struggles with almost daily. Which lights do we charge you rent on, and which ones are metered? Do we fix that light on your barn because we own it?

Custer PPD lives in a world that has all kinds of regulations. Regulations that need to be considered. Our linemen are very talented at what they do. I'll stand them up against anybody.



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But one thing they are not is electricians. Custer PPD cannot work on your side of the meter.

Continued on page 3

Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m.(CT) in the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E on HWY 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Theadford, Nebraska.

Continued from page 2

That line has been drawn for a long time and Custer PPD abides by that, but it's hard to tell a customer we can't fix a light in your yard, because we are not electricians. I know... "Come on Rick, you handle electricity every day, can't you fix my light?" Well, no. Sorry.

Custer PPD has recently updated the policies pertaining to yard lights and how yard lights are handled. Not a favorite topic, because it touches every customer in our District. Custer PPD always strives to provide great customer service, and that will continue, but we need to make sure we are all on the same page with your yard lights.

Soon, our customers will be either getting a call from the office or a letter in the mail stating that Custer PPD will only be charging you for one light. It's the light that is installed on a Custer PPD pole, whether that is the transformer pole or the meter pole or both, which in that case the customer will have two lights. All the other lights, if you have multiple lights, will now become your light. Custer PPD will still rent lights and still take care of the lights that Custer PPD owns, but the linemen cannot work on lights that are not on Custer PPD equipment.

This will be a task because there are hundreds of different situations out there. I'm sure your situation isn't much different than somebody else's, but Custer PPD needs to get a handle on what the linemen are working on and where.

This will take time. This will take patience of which I thank you for in advance. ♦



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Irrigation Equipment Safety



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Know How to Stay Safe When Using Farm Irrigation Equipment

Irrigation systems are important to farms. However, they carry many risks that farmers should be aware of and know how to manage. *Safe Electricity* has the following information for farmers to keep in mind.

Thousands of gallons of water are pumped through irrigation pipes daily. Eventually, all this water starts to clog the pipe with sediment. Raising the pipe in the air may seem like an obvious way to clean out an irrigation pipe. However, a long irrigation pipe could easily become tangled in irrigation pipes power lines, and you could get an electric shock as you become the electricity's path to the ground.

Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix. Do not allow irrigation water nozzles to spray on power lines. A water stream hitting a power line could energize the entire system, creating a shock hazard to anyone nearby or in contact with the equipment.

Take some time to survey your surroundings before moving equipment. Look up and around you; note any power lines that could be close enough to come into contact with equipment—and stay away. Always know the location of nearby electrical lines when working with irrigation equipment. Any contact between the irrigation equipment and nearby electrical lines could be fatal or cause serious injury.

Make sure that irrigation system wiring is properly grounded. Before the start of each irrigation season, have a qualified electrician check the pump and wiring.

Store unused irrigation pipes far away from power lines or electrical equipment. Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines.

Position the water jet streams so that there is no chance of them spraying onto power lines – if this happens, the entire system could become energized, creating a danger for anyone nearby.

Stay away from the piping during any lightning activity. Install lightning arresters to protect your equipment.

If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.

Always shut off and lock the master electrical control switch before servicing the machine.

Avoid moving irrigation equipment on windy days when pipes could be blown into nearby power lines. Keep pipes horizontal to the ground rather than vertical to minimize the risk of contact with power lines.

If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from it and call your local electric utility for help. ♦



4th of July is almost here!

Your 4th of July celebration is meant to be enjoyed. Here are some tips from Custer Public Power District you should use and pass on to your family:

- ★ Look Up! Only light fireworks in open areas, away from power lines and electrical equipment.
- ★ Do not use pad-mount transformers to set your fireworks or other 4th of July supplies on.
- ★ Do not hang decorations on utility poles.
- ★ When using outdoor extensions cords, do not overload the circuit or drive over the extension cord. Check routinely to make sure the cord and outlet are not hot or overloaded.
- ★ Always have a fire extinguisher close that is rated for electrical fires.
- ★ Do not retrieve objects from electrical equipment. Call 1-888-749-2453 and let Custer Public Power District ensure you have a safe and happy Independence Day!

Happy



INDEPENDENCE DAY



4th of July

Custer Public Power District Receives Workplace Safety Award



The Nebraska Safety Council (NESC) recognized thirteen organizations and six individuals during the 45th Annual Conference Awards Luncheon at Robber's Cave, on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Each year, organizations and individuals are recognized for their dedication to workplace safety and wellbeing.

The Workplace Safety Award Program is designed for NESC members that encourage and promote the prevention of occupational injuries and illness in their workplace. Recipients achieve superior results in the success of their safety programs. Applications are peer-reviewed by industry professionals in a volunteer committee that evaluates various aspects of their programs.

Custer Public Power District was recognized for the Spirit Safety Award. Their commitment to workplace safety shapes a safer environment that decreases the risk of injuries and fatalities.

NESC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Their mission is to provide leadership and resources to promote a safe and healthy environment in our workplace and community. Contact the Nebraska Safety Council at 402-483-2511 or online at www.nesafetycouncil.org. ♦





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Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

By Abby Berry

“Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.”

In April 2022, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That’s why it’s so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn’t have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it’s time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you’re driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you’re cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation’s landscape. ♦

Practice Storm Safety

- Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.
- Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.
- Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



RECIPES

Texas Caviar

Courtesy of Southern Living

INGREDIENTS:

2 (14 oz.) cans black-eyed peas, drained
1 (15.5 oz.) can white hominy, drained
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
2 green tomatoes, chopped
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
2 jalapeño peppers, chopped
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 (8 oz.) bottle Italian dressing
Tortilla chips, for serving



© Caitlan Bense/Southern Living

DIRECTIONS:

Stir together the first 9 ingredients in a large bowl. Add the dressing to the black-eyed pea mixture, stirring until combined. Cover and chill 2 hours. Drain. Serve with the tortilla chips.

Pina Colada Icebox Cake

Courtesy of Taste of Home

INGREDIENTS:

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon rum extract
1 can (13.66 ounces) coconut milk, divided
1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
1 container (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
15 whole graham crackers
1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup sweetened shredded coconut, toasted



© Taste of Home

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and extract until smooth. Gradually beat in 1 cup coconut milk. Add pudding mix; beat on low speed until smooth. Fold in whipped topping.
2. Pour remaining coconut milk into a shallow dish. Quickly dip half the graham crackers into the coconut milk; allow excess to drip off. Arrange crackers in a single layer in the bottom of a 13 x 9 inch baking dish, breaking to fit as needed. Layer with half each of the cream cheese mixture, pineapple and coconut. Repeat layers. Refrigerate, covered, at least 4 hours before serving.

Optional: Fold in part, or all, of the pineapple into the cream cheese mixture instead of laying it with the cream cheese, pineapple, and coconut.

Calendar Photos Needed



Every year Custer Public Power District prints a calendar for our customers. The calendar's photographs are submitted by residents living in the Custer PPD service territory.

Photographs must be submitted by September 30, 2023, and include the photo entry found on the Custer Power web-page. Photos must be sent digitally. Digital photos of 300 dpi or higher, saved in raw/untouched format jpeg or tiff are needed.

For more information go to www.custerpower.com or call 308-872-2451 and ask for Tarin Burrows.

Share your favorite recipe and earn a free gift when it is published.

Mail to:

Custer Public Power District
Att. Tarin Burrows
P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822



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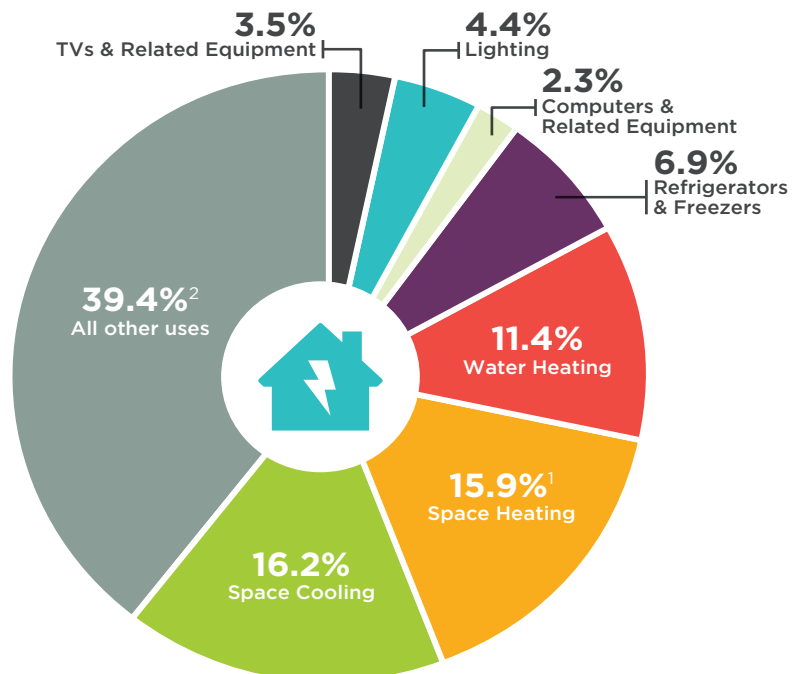


Nebraska Lineworkers Rodeo July 21, 2023

Opening ceremonies will begin at 8:30 a.m. (CT) at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.
²Includes miscellaneous electronics, clothes washers and dryers, cooking equipment, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

OFFICE HOURS

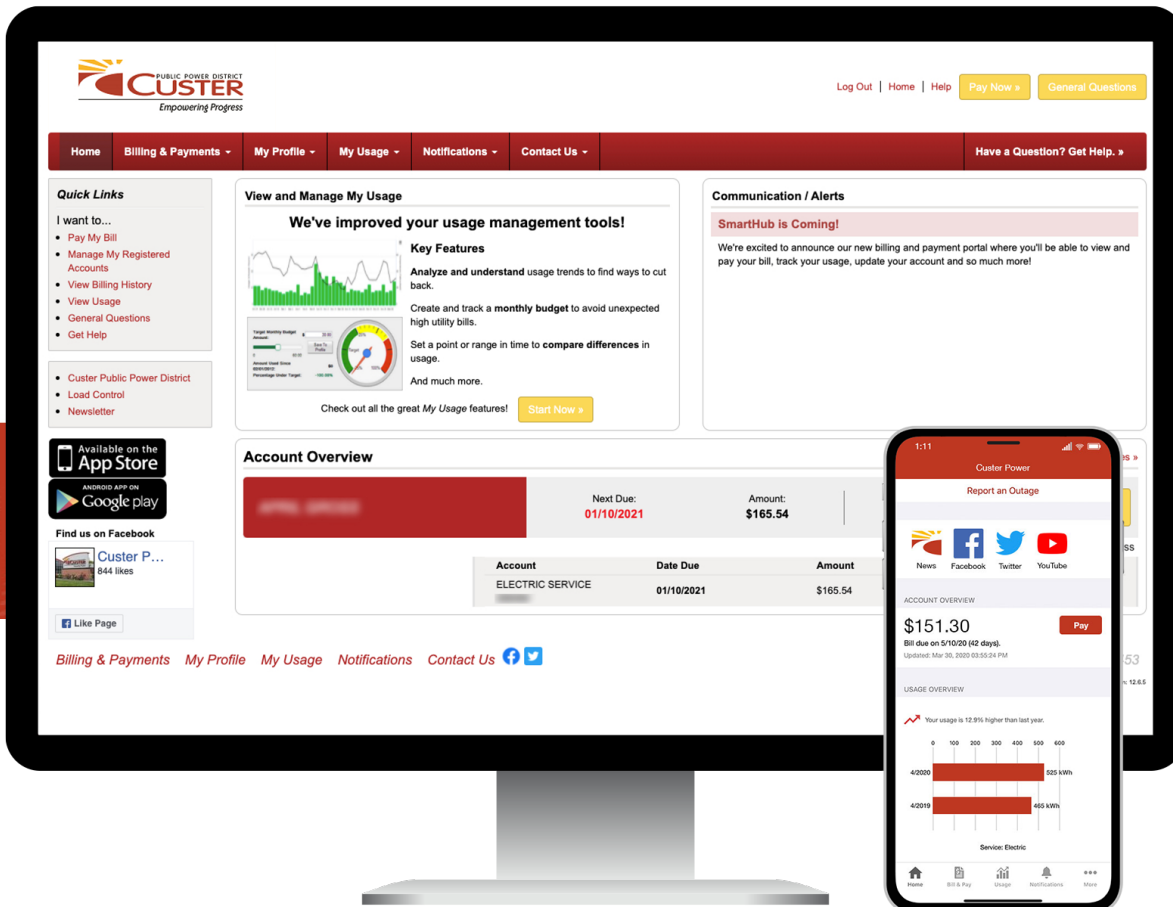
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT
The office and area service centers
will be closed on July 4, 2023.

For after hour emergencies,
call 1-888-749-2453.



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