



Putting safety first this month – and throughout the year

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

It's May – and Custer Public Power District is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our customer/owners is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.

- Ensure all counter top appliances are located away from the sink.

- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.



- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.



- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.

- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions.



All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.

- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency



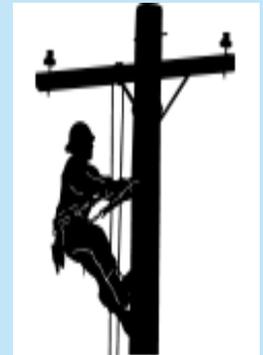
Cheryl Taylor, Director of Finance and Administration, completed her **Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate (CRPC) Program**. The two-week program is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and provides certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Participants learn the concepts and practices needed to provide effective financial and strategic insight and successfully position their Districts for the future.

April Gross, Customer Service Manager received her certificate for **Key Accounts Management**. Program Certification provides the insights, tools, and relationship building skills that will enable participants to successfully align and implement key account strategies to position their District for success.

April, also completed her **Management Internship Program**. The MIP provides a comprehensive analysis of the functions and processes of management in an electrical cooperative.



Jake Ross and Gordon Needs completed their **Lineworker Certification Program**. This program serves as the curriculum component of apprenticeship leading to journeyman certifications.



continued 12-A

escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they’re involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit custerpower.com or www.esfi.org

**Celebrating
National Electrical Safety Month**





Kim Reber, Customer Service Representative, joined the Custer Power team in January. She grew up in Colorado, and received her Associates degree in horse training. She moved to the Sandhills in 1988, and ranched with her husband. Together they have 4 children and 10 grandchildren from 3 months to 17 years. She worked as the Business Manager of Sandhills Public Schools for 13 years. She is glad to be aboard the CPPD team!



Alex Hart, Accounting Assistant, grew up on a farm east of Sargent with her parents, Bill and Vicky Hart and two younger sisters- Jenny and Emma. She graduated from Sargent High School in 2013. She majored in Business Administration and minored in Accounting at Hastings College. She currently lives about 10 miles north of Broken Bow on the Round Valley Road with her boyfriend, Dillon Coleman and her lab, Ellie.

Darwin Haas retired from the **Engineering Department** this spring. He began his engineering career after graduating from NE Tech at Milford. He worked for WF Anderson and various other engineering firms. He worked 14 years for Dawson Public Power. The ice storm of 1994 brought him to Custer Public Power. He has worked for CPPD for 21 years. In his free time, he would work buffalo at the Nature Conservancy Niobrara Valley Preserve at Johnstown, NE.

He is looking forward to spending time with his wife, Dianne. They plan on traveling and seeing family. He is planning on catching up on fixing fence.

Darwin, congratulations on your retirement.

Rob Keeney, joined Shane at the Callaway Outpost as an **Apprentice Lineman** this last fall. Rob and his wife, Tessa live in Callaway. CPPD is proud to have him on our team.

A Salute To Those Graduating In The Custer Public Power Family

Congratulations



Tommy Flynn from Nebraska Christian School, son of Kelly & Angie Flynn (Customer Service Representative)

Kayla Clark from University of South Dakota School of Law, daughter of Mick (Construction Foreman) & Sheila Clark

Kinsey Clark from Wayne State College, daughter of Mick (Construction Foreman) & Sheila Clark

Keegan Clark from Broken Bow High School, son of Mick (Construction Foreman) & Sheila Clark



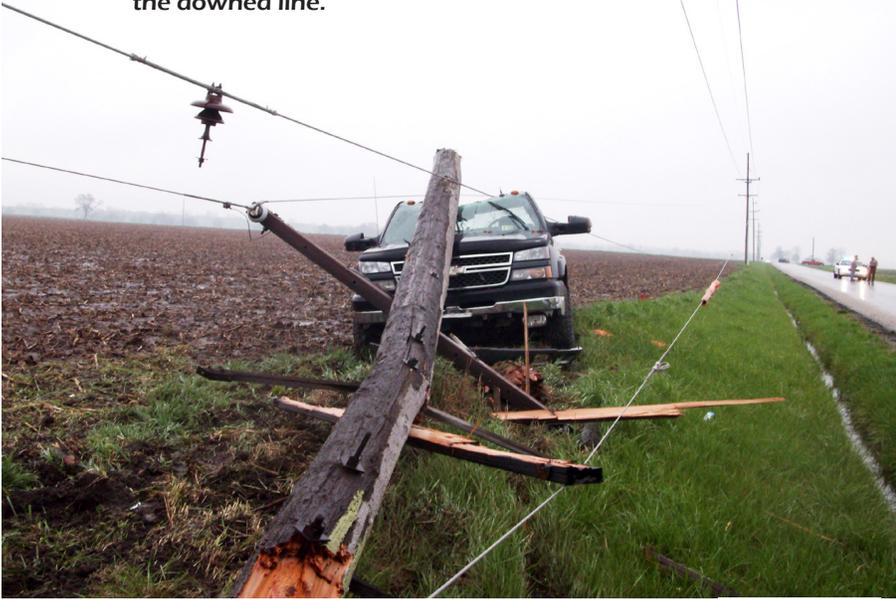
Safety Tip for Smart Drivers:

NEVER drive over a downed power line.

It could pull down the pole and other equipment, creating additional hazards.

If you see a downed line, **do not get out of your car.** The safest place is inside the vehicle.

Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility of the downed line.



3 ingredient pineapple cake

Ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour, sifted

1 cup caster sugar (you can run sugar through a coffee grinder- powder sugar is too fine)

1 can (440g) crushed pineapple in syrup or juice, undrained



Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a loaf tin with baking paper and set aside.

Mix all ingredients together until well combined.

Pour into the loaf tin and bake for 55-60 minutes.



Notes:

Coconut buttercream icing goes good on top of this cooled cake. This cake is best eaten on the day it is baked. It is a heavy cake.

This recipe was created by Jennifer Cheung for Kidspot, Australia's best recipe finder.

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

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

Officers & Directors

Brad Bartak, Merna.....President
John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President
Greg Smith, Milburn.....Secretary
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer
Tom Roberts, Loup City.....Asst. Treasurer
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director
Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....Director

Staff

Rick Nelson.....General Manager
Tom Knott.....Director of Operations
and Loss Control
Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and
Administration

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 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow 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 Thedford, Nebraska.

