

POWER LINE

February 2024



Redwood Electric Cooperative

60 Pine Street • Clements, Minnesota 56224

Redwood Electric Cooperative

ANNUAL MEETING

April 4, 2024

1:00 pm

Wabasso Community Center



UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION

We do our best to keep you informed. Whether it is regarding your bill and account status or if we need to inform you of planned outages and load control times, we want to ensure we are delivering the information to the correct place. If we have outdated contact information, it's possible you'll miss out on these important pieces of communication.

Call 1-888-251-5100 or email office@redwoodelectric.com to verify the following information on your account is updated.



Phone numbers



Mailing address



Email address



Other information for capital credits



Security PIN



USING A SPACE HEATER?

Some people may use space heaters for additional heat. Using a space heater properly is vitally important for your family's safety. Realize, that leaving space heaters on for a long period of time can increase your electric bill. A 1500watt space heater can cost approximately \$0.18/hour for 24 hours that's a cost of \$4.32/day and \$130/month. That is for each space heater.

Use Space Heaters Safely

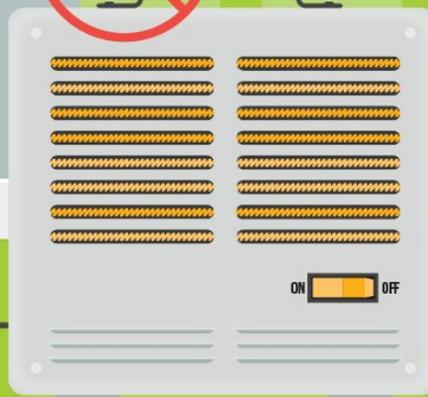
DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



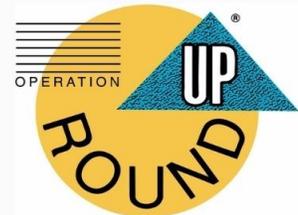
DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.



DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



SHARE THE SPIRIT



Barb Dahms, co-chair of Share the Spirit and Sarah Groebner, Redwood Electric

The mission of Share the Spirit, in Redwood Falls, is to help provide for the overall basic essential needs of toys, food, winter wear, and blankets to needy families in Redwood County.

Share the Spirit is a non-profit subsidiary of the Redwood Communities Foundation. A volunteer organization with 100% contributions being used for the direct purpose of providing for less fortunate family's.

Redwood Electric Cooperative Trust awarded Share the Spirit a check from Operation Round-Up for \$1,350 to help provide food and gifts during the holiday season.



I Hit a Power Pole or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can, and in an instant.

Drivers veer off the road and run into a power pole. Farmers sometimes make contact with a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.



Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified. "People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life," according to Erin Hollinshead, associate director of the Energy Education Council/Safe Electricity program.

If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer ("green box") or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle or cab. Instead, **call 9-1-1** and **wait for utility crews to come** and de-energize power. Here are some examples; in all instances, call 9-1-1:

- Your tractor or car **strikes a guy wire** (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground or otherwise damaged, it could become energized.
- You hit a patch of ice and go off the road **and hit a utility pole**. Or you are in a car accident and **one of the vehicles strikes a power pole**. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, **this is called step potential** and it can electrocute you.
- You see an accident that involves a **downed power line**. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a **pad-mounted transformer** or other type of **electrical box**.
- Your vehicle hits a **substation**.
- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

Other situations

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device): Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.

You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause back feeding into the line and kill a line worker or neighbor.

OPERATION ROUND-UP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Deadline is
MARCH 15TH, 2024

www.redwoodelectric.com

Youth Tour
WASHINGTON D.C.

JUNE 18-23, 2024

sgroebner@redwoodelectric.com | **Deadline: March 8th**

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM
 Phone: 888-251-5100 or 507-692-2214
 Email address:
office@redwoodelectric.com
 Web: www.redwoodelectric.com
 SmartHub: redwoodelectric.smarthub.coop
 Pay By Phone: 844-846-2696

OUTAGES
 (888) 251-5100
 24 HOURS A DAY

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
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 Call (800) 252-1166 or 811

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director,
 Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence
 Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-
 9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at
program.intake@usda.gov.