

31st year 4th Issue

May 2020

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CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS

(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS):

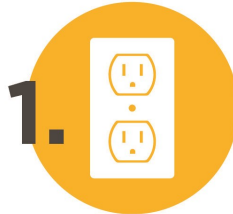
- Herren Brothers True Value
- Same As It Once Was
- Country Corner Hair Shop
- Miller Soap Company
- Bloomers



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.





This is a big year for construction and load upgrades on the NEA system. Currently in the spotlight is the 115k transmission feed from Glendo to NEA, where the Podolak substation is located and power goes out as 69k to Van Tassell and Cheyenne River.

The portion of this line to Kirtley road is being reconstructed as a 115k/69k line. This new construction will serve Oneok expansion as well as being a back up line to the NEA system and the town of Lusk.

In order to meet our commitment to reliable power for our members, a temporary power supply needed to be implemented. To that end, a portable 40 MVA sub arranged through our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, arrived at NEA in early April.

The aging transformer in Podolak substation is undersized for current and future loads and will be replaced in approximately 14 months with a 60 MVA transformer that Tri-State G&T will own.

Tri-State crews are hard at work in the Podolak substation working to add a new bay and metering for another circuit out of the substation. While this is taking place, the substation must be offline and de-energized.

The portable sub will remain past completion of the Podolak substation bay upgrade to assist with load throughout the irrigation season and will be in use throughout the coming months until the 60 MVA installation is completed.

Use of the portable sub is no small undertaking. The multimillion dollar equipment requires months of planning and coordination to secure and obtain, along with site work for proper setting.

Accompanying pictures are of the 40 MVA transformer/portable sub and Tri-State employees working on new CT equipment required for the new metering within the Podolak substation.



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"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."



Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm

Electrician Department

6:00 am—4:30 pm (M-TH)

Outages1-800-322-0544
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and SRS will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

Sadly with the cancellation of Annual Meeting this year, the opportunity to honor our employees receiving service awards in front of the membership is missed. We want to acknowledge the following employees and director for their work at NEA and the years of service they have achieved.

Jim Pontarolo	5 years
Doug Lytle	5 years
JoAnn Moore	10 years
Levi Clark	10 years
Jessie Bonsell	10 years
David Keener	25 years



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Board Minutes

- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke on Operations and Safety and new hires. He spoke about ROW for the Oneok & 115k transmission line.
- Manager Kevin Inman spoke on budget, landowner group, ESC material purchasing, RESAP program, Annual Audit results and Coronavirus update. NEA Annual Meeting discussion with decision to cancel this year.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business. He reported on the WREA annual meeting, their new director election, NRECA Rick Taylor presentation, new airport for drones and UGA climate policy speaker.
- Director Wilson spoke on Tri-State business. He reported on the FERC approved regulation. The Tri-State annual meeting has been postponed and his board meeting will be by phone.