



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

December 2024

Brooklyn, Iowa

CEO/General Manager's Update



Scott Long

Greetings everyone, we are closing out fall and moving into our winter mindset. The fall weather has been dry, but we have been able to keep our construction and maintenance projects moving forward to ensure our reliability to our member-owners. The weather has also been generous for a timely harvest which also allows for fall dirt work and planning for the 2025 crop. This year we had many pole rejections from our pole testing crew, but it is better to find the damaged poles now and get them changed out versus letting Mother Nature find them for us later. Out of the 3,806 poles tested this year, we had 202 rejected for wooden damage and decay. Our pole testing and treating program is just one part of our reliability plan that we follow where each one of our twenty-one substations is inspected over a ten-year cycle. This maintenance program helps us to maintain our 99.97%, five-year average of keeping the lights on.

There has been a lot of conversation about defined electric service territory. Defined service territories allow T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to confidently make long-term investments in our infrastructure for reliability and maintaining affordable rates. Because your cooperative has a designated service territory, we can be proactive in our maintenance and vegetation management for the farms, homes, and businesses we provide electric service to every day. Over the last 20-30 years, several states have deregulated their utilities. These deregulated states have a history of having an average electric rate that is 28% higher than traditionally regulated states. On average, electrical outages in Iowa are 22% shorter compared to deregulated midwestern states plus Iowa electrical consumers experience 34% fewer outages.

Our bottom line is providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. While we must balance expenses and cover the overhead of business, when we have profitable margins, we give it back to our member-

owners. Not only is returning capital credit patronage a major advantage of belonging to T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, it is why being a co-op member matters. Your cooperative's employees and board of directors live and work in the same communities and we take pride in serving you and being part of rural America.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees and Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family a safe and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Budget Billing Available

Would you like to know what your electric bill will be each month? If you opt for budget billing, your account is averaged for your last year of usage. That amount is what you would pay each month over the next twelve months. Periodically your account will be reviewed to ensure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.



Meskwaki Nation Hosts Careers in Construction Day



Pictured above left to right: Kendall Bunn, Journeyman Lineman, Hunter Connelly, Manager of System Operations and Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service standing in front of the Live Line Demo.

Careers in Construction Month (CICM) is a nationwide campaign held every October to increase public awareness of construction careers, inspire the next generation of craft professionals and showcase the positive impact a fulfilling career in construction can have on individuals and communities.

T.I.P. REC was invited to participate in the Careers in Construction Day held October 17. Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, Hunter Connelly, Manager of System Operations, and Kendall Bunn, Journeyman Lineman, took the Live Line Demo which demonstrates the dangers of having an electric contact to the event.

T.I.P. REC appreciated the opportunity to educate participants about electrical safety and explain the numerous career options available in the electrical industry.



Pictured to the left is Kendall Bunn, Journeyman Lineman, standing in front of a table displaying the equipment that a lineworker wears.

Representative Dean Fisher Visits T.I.P. REC



This fall Representative Dean Fisher (center) visited T.I.P. REC and talked to CEO/General Manager Scott Long (left) and Director Randy Upah about important rural issues and received a campaign donation from Iowa F.O.R.E. PAC (Friends of Rural Electrification Political Action Committee).

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



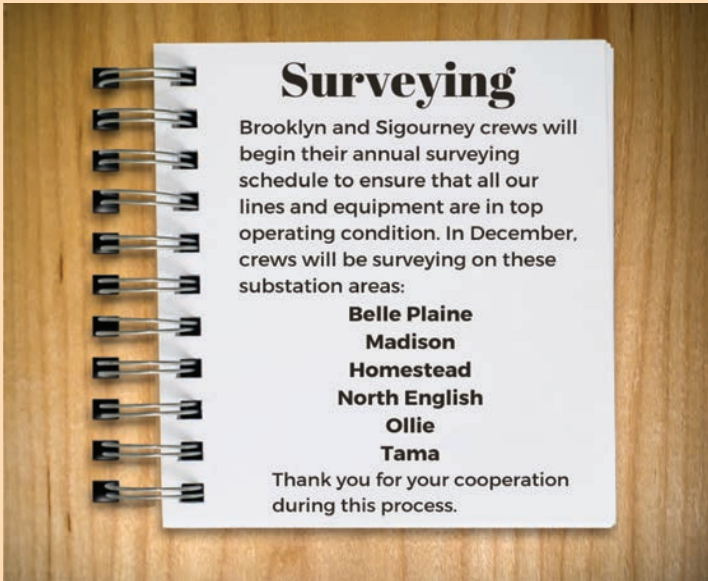
If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule

with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, include phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

← CHECK THIS OUT!

T.I.P. REC offers **REBATES** on electric water heater, central air conditioners, clothes washers, electric clothes dryers and much more. Go to tiprec.com/rebates for more details.



ATTENTION MEMBER-OWNERS THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING SOLAR: It is very important that you contact Cole Calkins, T.I.P. REC Staking Technician/Member Service, at 800-934-7976 BEFORE you make any decisions. Cole will discuss our policies and explain the billing so that you are well informed about T.I.P. REC's side of the process.

SAVE THE DATE

February 20-21, 2025

Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel
1800 50th St., West Des Moines, Iowa

EARN CEUs in the following areas:

- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Safety

NETWORK with building trades pros and other energy-efficiency industry experts

BUILD BETTER energy modeling and recognize overlooked trouble spots

GAIN INSIGHT into new techniques from top-of-the-industry, nationally-known speakers

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

Contact your local electric cooperative if you are interested in attending.

To exhibit, contact
ryan.cornelius@cbpower.coop or
mibeventcoordinator@gmail.com.
Registration open **NOW!**
www.momentumisbuilding.com

Prevent Holiday Fires

Keep your family safe and your holiday season merry with these fire safety tips:

Candle Safety

- Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- Extinguish candles before going to bed, leaving the room or leaving the house.
- Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles, placing them out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep candles away from flammable items like trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- Opt for battery-operated candles near flammable objects.

Christmas Tree Fire Prevention

- Choose a fresh tree. Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters and vents.
- Check the water level daily to prevent the tree from drying out.
- Place the tree away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
- If using an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
- When discarding a real tree, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable.

Holiday Lighting Safety

- Purchase lights from reputable retailers and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA.
- Only use lights designed for outdoor use when hanging outside.
- Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for outdoor lights.
- Avoid water and snow when using extension cords and outdoor lights.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines while hanging lights.
- Check for broken sockets and frayed wires before use.
- Avoid plugging too many devices into a single outlet.
- Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.

Fireplace Safety Tips

- Decorate wisely. Avoid hanging flammable decorations like stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
- Perform annual maintenance. Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year.
- Use a screen. Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
- Burn responsibly. Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.

High School Students Observe T.I.P. REC Linemen

This fall three students from area schools signed up to learn more about a lineman's job and spend a day observing them at work. By spending a day with the linemen, it gives the students a chance to ask questions and get a better idea of the job responsibilities, challenges and dangers lineworkers face.

This was all made possible by the Kirkwood Workplace Learning Connection Program that - as part of their program - helps students make decisions on what career path they would like to take after high school.

T.I.P. REC was excited to have this opportunity to help these students plan their future.



Pictured above is Aiden Hiner, a senior from Williamsburg High School, who went out with our linemen and observed them trenching in a new underground service.



Parker Weeda, a senior from the Belle Plaine High School, had a nice fall day to observe our linemen removing an old pole and installing a new one.



Kennedy Thiessen, a sophomore from Iowa Valley High School, joined our line crew to observe them changing out a pole.



**We will be Closed
Christmas Eve &
Christmas Day -
December 24 & 25**

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed the dates above along with Wednesday, January 1 to celebrate New Year's Day.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, December 18 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

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Non-Discrimination Statement

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

TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.