



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

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Harvest Safety - Protecting Workers and Ensuring a Bountiful Harvest

The harvest season is a crucial time in agriculture when farmers reap the fruits of their labor and contribute to the world's food supply. However, amid the excitement and productivity, it is essential to prioritize the safety of agricultural workers. The nature of harvest operations presents unique challenges and potential hazards that require diligent attention and proactive measures. This article will explore key aspects of harvest safety, discussing essential practices and technologies that can protect workers and ensure a successful and accident-free harvest.

Proper training and education are fundamental to promoting harvest safety. Farmers and Agricultural Operations should ensure that all workers, including seasonal and temporary staff, receive comprehensive training before engaging in harvest activities. This training should cover topics such as equipment operation, safe handling of machinery, and emergency procedures.

By equipping workers with knowledge about potential hazards and best safety practices, farmers can reduce the risk of accidents. Regular refresher courses, pre-job planning, toolbox talks, and safety discussions throughout the harvest season help reinforce safety protocols and address any emerging concerns or issues.

Harvesting involves the use of various heavy machinery and equipment, including combines, tractors, and harvesters. Regular maintenance, inspection, and repair of these machines are crucial to prevent malfunctions that can lead to accidents. Ensuring the manufacturer-provided safety features and guards are in place and functioning is a great place to start.

As with all equipment, operators should be trained in safe equipment operation and should never use machinery without proper authorization. Implementing a pre-harvest inspection checklist can help identify any potential issues and ensure that all safety features are functional.

Harvest season can be physically and mentally

demanding, often requiring long work hours. Fatigue can impair judgment and reaction times, increasing the likelihood of accidents. It is crucial to manage worker schedules effectively, ensuring adequate rest breaks and limiting the number of consecutive hours worked if possible.

Encouraging workers to prioritize proper nutrition, hydration, and sleep can contribute to their overall well-being and reduce the risk of fatigue-related incidents. Additionally, fostering an open line of communication between workers and supervisors allows for the early identification of fatigue-related concerns. When we look out for each other while we are out in the field and share a common goal of ending the day safely, everyone is better off!

Investing in harvest safety not only protects the well-being of agricultural workers but also safeguards the quality and quantity of the yield. By adopting proactive measures and incorporating advancements in technology, such as sensors and automated safety systems, the agriculture industry can continue to thrive while ensuring a safe working environment.

Remember, a successful harvest is one that not only yields abundant crops but also ensures the well-being of the dedicated individuals who make it all possible. Harvest safety should remain at the forefront of every farmer's mind, contributing to a prosperous and accident-free season.



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2023 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report: Powering Progress Together

By: Craig Stallman
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors



As the energy landscape continues to shift around us, I'm happy to report that our cooperative renewed our long-term commitment to Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) by signing a new wholesale power contract. Negotiations lasted several years until CIPCO and its Member-owner electric

cooperatives came to an agreement on the updated terms that provide a framework to integrate new technologies and serve as a foundation for critical long-term resource decisions while maintaining flexibility.

Although 2023 began amid a backdrop of economic uncertainty, persistent inflation, and ongoing supply-chain disruptions, the wholesale power markets somewhat calmed and CIPCO's financial results reflected a year of strong performance and competitive rates. CIPCO is proud to maintain competitive rates that, today, remain below rates charged to T.I.P. REC more than 10 years ago.

As your representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors, I was involved in discussions around the challenges we expected to come from the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants, released in April this year. As expected, this barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation's ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time in our nation's energy future. Additionally, these rules push additional essential "always available" generating resources such as coal off the grid just as the nation is depending on electricity to power more of the U.S. economy.

On behalf of its Member-owners, CIPCO stands united with its cooperative and industry peers to challenge detrimental regulations and advocate for sensible energy policies. Intermittent generation resources such as wind and solar are a valuable and growing portion of CIPCO's energy mix, but coal and natural gas generators are critical to preserve reliability, minimize emissions and keep electricity rates at an affordable level for T.I.P. REC and its member-owners.

Severe weather events underscored the need for a robust transmission system in 2023. On March 31, a

widespread tornado outbreak swept through the eastern part of Iowa, causing 23 system outages and 47 damaged transmission structures for CIPCO. In August, CIPCO reached a new all-time peak demand of 675 MW during a period of sustained high temperatures. I'm pleased to report that CIPCO met all its generation requirements as requested by the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and did not need to call on any of its Member-owners to shed load.

Despite these events and others, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.209 hours per customer, one of the best years for reliability in CIPCO's history.

In 2023, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength.

CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2023, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$421,768 to T.I.P. REC.

I can assure you that the CIPCO Board, member CEOs and the CIPCO management team are focused on finding solutions that balance the reliable, affordable and sustainable energy our member-owners expect and deserve. No matter the complex issues before us, cooperative solutions are the answer.

Shine the Light Contest Nominees



T.I.P. REC is thrilled to announce that we had two amazing nominees in this year's Shine the Light Contest. Unfortunately, none of our nominees were chosen as a finalist but we feel it is very important to recognize them and their contributions to our communities.

We will feature the other nominee in an upcoming newsletter.

T.I.P. REC would like to thank all of the volunteers in our communities for keeping rural America thriving.

Shine the Light Contest Nominee Allison Gonyo Nominated by Marty McCoy



Allison Gonyo is a senior at Dowling High School in Des Moines where they promote volunteering and ask their students to log their volunteer hours. Allison is always volunteering her time as well as being an active student participating in swimming, diving, chorus and FFA.

In June alone, Allison volunteered 77 hours. She helped at Sacred Heart Vacation Bible School, traveled to Greenfield, Iowa, after they had the devastating tornado and aided a cancer patient family, and spent a week at Children's Cancer Connection Camp in Boone as a counselor.

T.I.P. REC along with our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, who matched our \$200.00 donation, gave Allison's charity Children's Cancer Connection a donation of \$400.00.

Thank you Allison for being such an upstanding student by volunteering your time to help others.

40 Year Service Award



Pictured above left is Janet Faas, Staff Assistant/Communications, receiving her Appreciation Certificate for 40 years of service from CEO/General Manager, Scott Long.

T.I.P. REC would like to thank Janet for her dedicated service to the cooperative and member-owners.

Fire Extinguisher Review



Pictured above is Jason Jack, Accountant, practicing his fire extinguisher skills.

At a recent safety meeting the employees participated in a fire extinguisher review session.

They watched a video on the different classes of fire extinguishers and types of fires they extinguish, and then reviewed how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

This review and hands-on practice is just one example of your cooperative's comprehensive safety program to better prepare the employees when there is an emergency such as a fire in the office or outside in the field.

2024 Annual Meeting

Make sure to check out the annual meeting highlights in the October newsletter or on our website: tiprec.com/annual-meeting. There will be pictures, reports, prize winners, and results from the election of your Board of Directors.



Your T.I.P. REC office will be closed Monday, September 2nd to observe Labor Day. To all who help drive progress and build our shared future, we hope you enjoy a well-deserved break!

Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.



Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! You care, we care, RECare.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

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Fill out, clip on dotted line and return to our office

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare. All RECare contributions must be in the form of a separate check from your utility payment.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

_____ I will contribute monthly to RECare. I would like the amount of \$_____ added to my bill for the next 12 months.


Name _____

Account Number _____ County _____

Please return to: RECare
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative
PO Box 534
Brooklyn IA 52211-0534



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, September 11 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

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