

T.I.P. Current Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

November 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Linemen Practice Pole Top Rescue



Adam Hawkins, Brooklyn Line Foreman, is shown practicing his pole top rescue.

Safety is a top priority at T.I.P. REC and annually our linemen review and practice the procedures for rescuing a fellow lineman who may have had electrical contact or who are in distress so that they are prepared to act when needed.

Throughout the year our line crews review numerous safety procedures unique to the electric industry.



T.I.P. REC is proud to honor our board members and employee and all those who have served our country. We are grateful for your service and bravery.



The employees and Board of Directors of T.I.P. REC wish you and your family a Blessed Thanksgiving.

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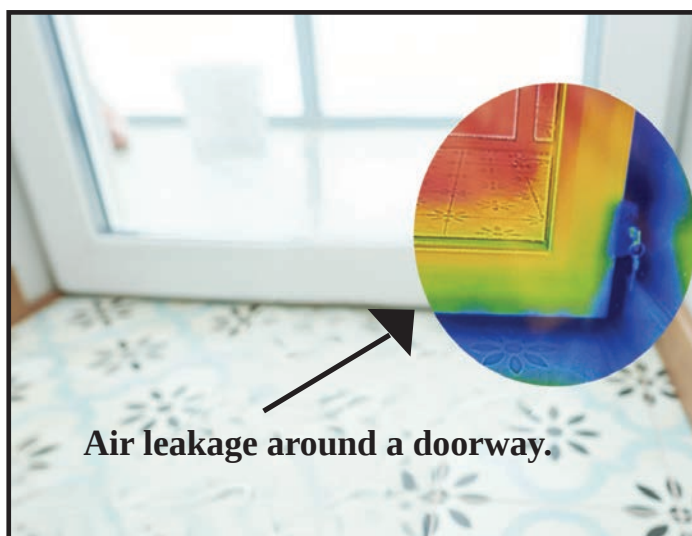
Energy Audits Can Save You Energy and Money

T.I.P. REC offers an infrared thermographic energy audit that can help our member-owners use electricity in a more efficient manner and help save money on their electric bill.

This type of energy audit offers an on-premise energy audit utilizing a third party vendor. This audit is done with the aid of thermography using infrared imaging displays to show heat patterns that allow the detection of problems that are not easily identifiable. Windows, doors, insulation levels and lighting are among other things that will be checked. This energy audit results in a very detailed report.

The cost to the member-owner for the above residential audit is \$175, with the cooperative picking up the remaining portion of the charges. Commercial energy audits are available but handled on an individual basis. You can schedule an energy audit by calling us at 800-934-7976.

If you are interested in a Do-It-Yourself energy assessment go to energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-assessments.



Air leakage around a doorway.

Stay Safe as You Go Over the River and Through the Woods this Holiday Season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual: shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult, which sometimes causes accidents.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions with cars may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to deenergize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to

use other objects to move it.

- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to safeelectricity.org.

Should I Use a Space Heater or Turn Up the Heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

Fix efficiency first, then supplement with a space heater

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and DIY-friendly, such as:

- Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.

- Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.

- Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.

- Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house.

A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

Use space heaters efficiently:

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.

- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

Stay safe while staying warm:

- Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.

- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.

- Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.

- Choose a heater with built-in safety features including: overheat sensor, tip-over shutoff switch and a UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.

- Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.

- Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.

- Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.



Student Job Shadows T.I.P. REC Linemen



This fall, Isaac Wedgewood, a Senior at Montezuma High School, came to our Brooklyn office to learn more about what a Lineworker career involves by spending time observing them doing their job. This gives the student a chance to ask questions and get a better idea of the job responsibilities if they choose a career in this field.

Job shadowing is a great opportunity for students to observe actual employees working and it helps them decide on what career path they would like to take after high school.

T.I.P. REC was excited to have the opportunity to help Isaac see if the lineman profession might be in his future plans.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, November 13 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of the home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as instant pots, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, remember to let your leftovers cool before putting them in the refrigerator and load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.



Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) Receives Operation Round-Up Donation



Pictured back left to right at the IMOM Clinic : Dr. Kobi Voshell, IMOM Committee Chair and Dentist, Director, Jerry Henning, CEO/General Manager, Scott Long and Iowa Dental Foundation Executive Director, Laurie Traetow. Front: Shannon Parker, licensed dental volunteer. Not pictured Director, James De Smet.

Our District 3 Directors James De Smet and Jerry Henning decided to make their Operation Round-Up donation of \$300 to the Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM).

The funds that were donated by the Operation Round-Up Program will help fund their annual first-come/first-served temporary dental clinic which rotates locations in Iowa.

At the clinic, numerous sponsors and volunteers donate their time, talents and resources to provide free dental care to patients. Licensed dental professionals provide a wide variety of treatments from cleanings to some oral surgeries.

This program definitely makes a difference in our communities and we thank all the member-owners who “round-up” their bill to make this donation possible.

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to www.tiprec.com and Click on the blue Pay Now tab at the top or log into SmartHub or Call 833-619-0894.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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