



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager



CO-OP NEWS

DECEMBER 2018



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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May through September

Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

October through April

Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

Winter hours in effect

Board of Directors

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Kenda Knudsen
Vice President

Julie Kilty
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Wishing you and yours a Wonderful Holiday Season

I hope this article finds you and your family well as we head into the holiday season and new year. From all of us at Wyrulec we appreciate your support and wish you a happy holiday and prosperous new year!



Checks in the mail

During our September board meeting your Board of Directors authorized the retirement of approximately \$790,000 in capital credit allocations back to the membership. * Patricia Webster * The \$790,000 represents retiring all the 1996 operating margin allocation from Tri-State Generation & Transmission and all the 2007 operating margin allocation from Wyrulec. If you were a member of the cooperative in 1996 or 2007 you should be receiving a check in the mail this month.



2019 Operating year

As we move into the 2019 operating year, we will focus our attention on the deployment of our new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System and updating regulators and fusing in our substations. The deployment of our new metering system is going very well. * Forrest Mast * I anticipate we will have around 1,000 new meters deployed by the first of the year. We have been very happy with the performance and reliability of the system and continue to deploy meters daily.

A review of our work plan for 2019 calls for substation regulator and fusing upgrades. We will also rebuild and replace some line in the Hawk Springs area and

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Holiday Hours

**Wyrulec will be closed
December 24 and 25
and January 1.**

**Have a Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New Year!!!**



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Wonderful Holiday Season

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we will have approximately 3,500 poles inspected starting around April. These past few months we have been contacted by several of our oil & gas

members looking at expansion of their existing facilities.

These members have been good for the cooperative in diversifying our load. We look forward to meeting

their needs this next year.

If you have any questions about your cooperative, you can reach me via email at rschilreff@wyrulec.com or on my cell phone at 307-575-2435.



* Chad Garhart *

Wyrulec Company linemen from left to right: Willy Unverzagt, DJ Duffield, and Miles Duffy recently completed the courses required to earn their Supervisory Certificates through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Ceramic insulators hold a power line off a power pole. If ceramic insulators are destroyed by weather or target shooters, what happens?



At a minimum, everyone on that line loses electrical service. The insulators have to be replaced.

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What could happen if you use an extension cord rated for 15 amps to plug in an appliance rated at 20 amps?



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The extension cord could get too hot, ruining the extension cord. A hot extension cord can also start a fire.

Is it safe to lift a power line with a wooden stick to allow a large auger or combine underneath?

No. Under a variety of circumstances, wood will conduct electricity. It depends on how dry the wood is, how clean it is, and how high the voltage with which it comes into contact. Call Wyrulec when you need a line lifted.

Galloping Power Lines

Have you ever seen geometric-shaped devices, spacers, or what looks like curled wire on a power line? Those are there to help prevent galloping of the lines, which usually happens during extreme and fluctuating cold-weather conditions. * Elizabeth Dixon * (You may have also noticed large, brightly colored marker balls placed on lines, but those are there to make the lines visible to approaching aircraft near airports.)

The galloping motion can begin after high winds and freezing rain create icicles and other ice formations on lines, sometimes on just one side of the line. Then as the high winds continue, they catch the ice formations on the power lines, creating a galloping, whipping or jumping motion.

Why do lights flicker?

If the galloping motion gets going, lines that pickup speed can make contact with grounded equipment, such as the steel of a transmission tower, stabilizing wires (called "guy" wires), or another conductor. * Mike Ridenour * When this happens, a short circuit occurs, causing the lights to flicker.

Once galloping starts, there isn't much your utility can do

until the winds subside. In addition to flickering light, power outages are possible due to excessive ice accumulation.

Wind storms can cause havoc year round

Aside from wintry storms that can cause freezing rain and ice, storms occurring any time of year can serve up damaging winds. Safe Electricity encourages you to keep the following safety tips in mind during or after a wind storm:

- ⚡ When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and call 9-1-1. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- ⚡ Stay away from all lines. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, making them dangerous.
- ⚡ If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and call for help. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and



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If you see your name in these pages, contact Wyrulec Company at 307-837-2225 for your \$25 bill credit!

Check your Wyrulec account online!

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Galloping Power Lines

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de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. Only exit the car in the case of fire; and, in doing so, be sure to jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop or shuffle away while continuing to keep both feet together to avoid becoming a conductor of electricity.

- ⚡ Remember that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Downed power lines can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences, metal culverts (a below-surface pipe that allows water to move) and metal drain covers.
- ⚡ Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

Get more electrical safety information at SafeElectricity.org.



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Deck the Halls **SAFELY**

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least ten feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more **holiday safety tips** visit:

