



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



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.



**Board of Directors**

Clay Peterson  
*President*

Kenda Knudsen  
*Vice President*

Julie Kilty  
*Secretary*

Jack Preston  
*Treasurer*

Dewey Hageman  
*Assistant Secretary*

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

**Senior Staff**  
Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Miles Duffy  
*Assistant Operations Manager*

Tiphanie Fuss  
*Office Manager*



Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



# New Resources for 2019

## New Year

As I write this article, we are just fourteen days into the New Year. Starting a New Year is always exciting and brings new challenges for all of us. Many of us have set new goals both personally and professionally and those New Year's resolutions are still fresh on the mind.



As we start this new year, it will be very busy here at your cooperative. We will close out the 2018 operating year, our financial auditors will be on site the second week of February, and we are currently preparing for the annual meeting in March.

From all of us at Wyrulec, we wish you the best in 2019.

## Emergency Preparedness

This past year we took a hard look at our Emergency Response Plan and all that it entails. One weakness we identified was keeping the Wyrulec headquarters energized if a catastrophic storm destroyed several distribution lines or a long-term failure on one or more of our high-side delivery points.



We also examined how we could keep some of our most critical accounts and the communities we serve energized applying some of these same scenarios. It was apparent that the need for a large portable generator could solve many of our short-term needs.

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## New Resources for 2019

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This past year, Wyrulec worked with Shelly Kirchhefer, Goshen County's Emergency Management Coordinator, to try and obtain a grant to pur-

chase a large portable generator.

Thanks to Shelly, Wyrulec was able to obtain a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$88,000 to purchase a

150kw portable generator.

This generator is capable of both three-phase and single-phase connections, along with a variety of different voltages. This past month we verified the generator would, in fact, power the whole Wyrulec headquarters building, and that we could keep operating as normal during a major outage. \* Patrick Vann \*

Because of the size and flexibility of the generator, it can be used in multiple different scenarios. Thanks again to Shelly for her hard work and dedication to our county!

### Nominating Committee Has Met

The Nominating Committee — comprised of Art Davis, Doug Frederick, Kent Hunter, Jack Revelle, and Curtis Grandstaff — met in January to nominate board of director candidates for District #1 and District #2 to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Cooperative by-laws also allow for nominations by petition of any 15 or more members not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

If you have questions about this process, please contact the Wyrulec office or any member of the nominating committee for more information.

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



Shelly Kirchhefer and Ryan Schilreff with the 150kW generator.



The Wyrulec crew hooked up the new generator for a trial run to power the headquarters building.



In 2019, Journeyman Lineman Miles Duffy moved into the position of Assistant Operations Manager. We appreciate Miles' hard work and commitment to the cooperative!

**Mark your calendars** **March 27**

**Come to the 83rd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 27th**

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

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

# Don't Let Your Generator Generate Hazardous Trouble

Having a generator on hand, whether portable or permanent, may sound like a great idea for times when the power goes out, but misusing one is dangerous.

They can help light your home or cool your perishable food when the neighborhood is dark, but if used incorrectly you could have a much bigger problem.

**When using a portable version, there are two ways to connect it to a home.**

The first way is with a powered circuit panel that has a power transfer switch, which monitors incoming voltage from the utility line. The circuit panel and transfer switch should always be installed by a qualified electrician.

The second option is to plug a limited number of home appliances directly into a fuel-powered portable generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Never try to power your home by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This is known as back feeding, and it could electrocute a neighbor or an electric lineman working to restore power.

**A permanent generator must also have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to avoid back feeding.**

Because of the harm an incorrectly powered generator can cause, the transfer switch is required by the National Electrical Code.

The primary hazards of using a portable generator are not pretty. They include carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**According to the agency, most of the deaths and injuries associated with portable generators are from CO poisoning when generators are used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces.**



©2017 Konstantin Popov, Dreamstime.com

A permanent or standby generator also has significant risks if not installed by a qualified electrician. Installing one is extremely dangerous and definitely not a DIY project. \* Loris Swank \*

Portable versions are less expensive than permanent or standby models and power only select appliances. The most expensive permanent generators—standby versions that are permanently installed and power most of the appliances in your home—are convenient but pricey. The average permanent system costs around \$10,000.

**Safe Electricity points to other important safeguards to take when using a generator:**

- ❖ Operate a portable generator in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors,

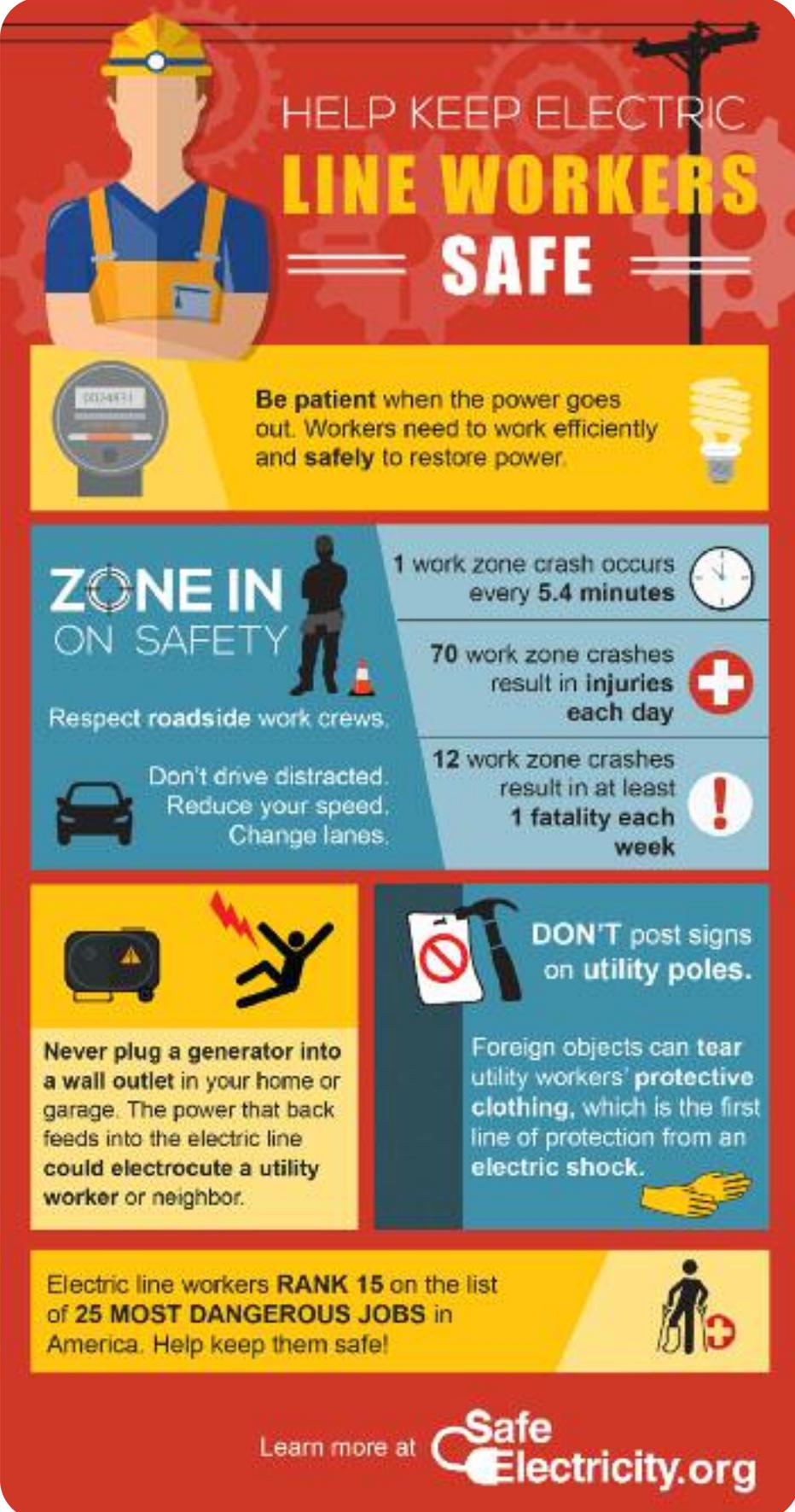
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## Hazardous Trouble

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- windows, and vent openings to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. The instructions that come with it are not meant for the recycle bin. Read and follow them; they are important.
- ❖ Turn the generator on before using it. Once it's running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Generators are for temporary use and limited load; prioritize your needs.
  - ❖ Never use a generator in a puddle or standing water and never touch with wet hands.
  - ❖ To protect a portable generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.  ©2017 Cherokee4, Dreamstime.com
  - ❖ Never use or install a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
  - ❖ Turn off portable generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
  - ❖ Store fuel for your portable generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
  - ❖ Keep children and pets away from all generators, especially portable ones. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Using a generator is serious business and shouldn't be done in haste. Learn more about using electricity safely and efficiently at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



**HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE**

**Be patient** when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and safely to restore power.

**ZONE IN ON SAFETY**  
Respect roadside work crews.  
Don't drive distracted. Reduce your speed. Change lanes.

- 1 work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes
- 70 work zone crashes result in injuries each day
- 12 work zone crashes result in at least 1 fatality each week

**Never plug a generator into a wall outlet** in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker or neighbor.

**DON'T post signs on utility poles.**  
Foreign objects can tear utility workers' protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock.

Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)