

BURT COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER

PO Box 209
Tekamah, NE 68061

It's Your Power!



Burt County 4-H Welcome Signs are UP!

From: Burt County Extension—February 2021 Newsletter

The Burt County 4-H Council started this project more years ago than we care to remember, running into red tape, delays, renewed red tape, but finally SUCCESS! Thanks to current 4-H council member, Scot Niewohner and the Burt County Public Power District we have bright, beautiful new “Burt County 4-H Welcomes you!” signs on every highway leading into Burt County! Our Burt County 4-H pride shows proudly again!



Burt's Briefs

Practice Safe Pesticide Use. Spring is probably the busiest time of the year for farmers. It is important to remember personal safety and protection to avoid accidents. While pesticides can greatly increase agricultural productivity, they can also be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment if not used properly.

April Yard and Garden Tips. Prune broadleaf trees and shrubs before they break dormancy. Clean and tune up lawn and garden equipment. Rake the lawn to remove twigs and debris that accumulated over winter. Apply a fungicide treatment to your lawn in mid-April.

First Aid on the Farm. Make sure first aid kits occupy farm buildings, sheds, combines, tractors and trucks. The quality of treatment a victim receives immediately following an accident will have a major influence on the recovery process. In some cases, immediate treatment is key to survival.

Service Retirements can Prevent Outages. If you have an old service that's not been used for a period of years or just isn't needed, why not remove it. Old wiring or old poles cause the majority of outages during stormy weather. Even just a little wind can wrap up old wires and take a line out for miles.

Diggers Hotline. Call Diggers Hotline (1-800-331-5666) or 811, 48 hours before you begin digging. Make sure you know the location of buried electrical lines.

Keeping the lights on: What does an electric lineworker do?

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at **Burt County Public Power**, one of the more visible jobs is that of a lineworker. You may see one of ours working 35 feet (or more) overhead or maintaining lines at ground level.

We entrust your safety to our lineworkers, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized workers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Components of these systems include power lines, transformers, fuses, insulators, and other related equipment.

Safety Comes First

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else. They spend numerous hours in safety trainings each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Electrical lineworkers are specially trained to:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

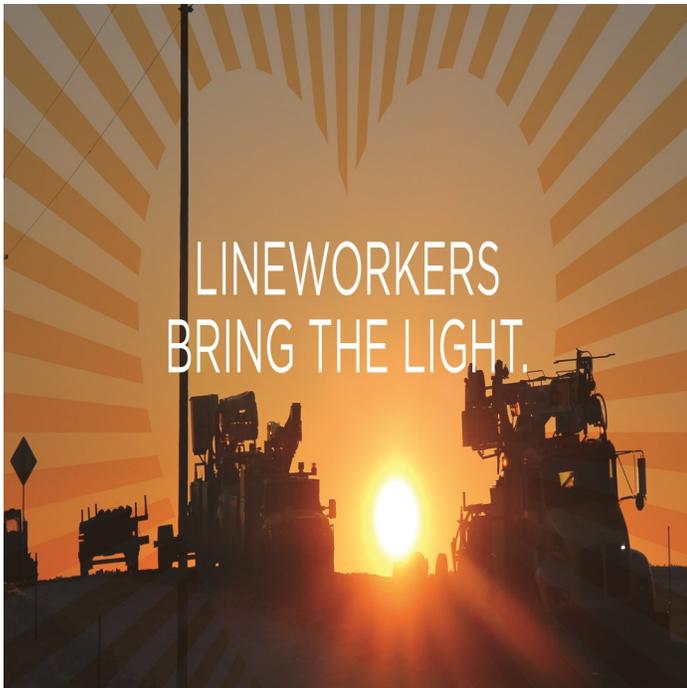
ELECTRICAL LINEWORKERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker.

Safe
Electricity.org®

Slow down, look around: Work Zone Awareness Week April 26-30

Although road maintenance crews come to mind when thinking of orange directional signs and work zones, other workers perform job duties near the road as well, including utility and tree-trimming crews.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in traffic lanes. Their work is often taken for granted but benefits us all; and, like everyone, they deserve a safe workplace. Be alert to utility crews and other work zone workers for their safety as well as yours.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, **672 fatal crashes** and **755 deaths** occurred in work zone crashes in 2018 (at the writing of this article, data was not available for 2019). Of those fatalities, 124 were workers. Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. An estimated 123,000 work zone crashes occurred in 2018, resulting in 45,000 people injured.

To help keep roadside crews safe:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks in your schedule.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as operating a radio, applying makeup and eating while driving.

Don't make the jobs of road workers, utility crews, tree trimmers and others who work near traffic more dangerous. Slow down when approaching a work zone and move over for first responders and work crews on the side of the road.

This helps keeps you safe as well. Drive safely.

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](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

Nebraska Extension News

By Aaron Nygren , Extension Educator

Be Safe When Handling Treated Seed This Spring

Reading the label for safety information and personal protective equipment (PPE) before mixing or applying a pesticide, such as an herbicide or insecticide, is a habit hopefully all of us do. On the other hand, how many of us think to check the seed tag on treated corn or soybeans for the same information? While it may not seem like a big deal, it's not a good idea to end the day with purple or green colored hands from handling treated seed...So, if you are planting using treated seed, this spring remember to be safe by wearing proper PPE when handling treated seed and check the seed tag for specific handling and use directions.

Treated seed is another route of exposure to pesticides on the farm, with potential exposure risk to fungicides, insecticides, or nematicide treatments. Therefore, it is critical to think about pesticide safety when using and handling. Remember that reducing our exposure is key to reducing the overall risk when handling pesticides. Below are some tips to safely handle treated seed, with the most important being to remember to read and follow all label directions.

1. **Read the seed tag.** This will be key to identifying a variety of important aspects of treated seed use. This can include personal protective equipment requirements, signal words such as caution, warning, or danger that indicates potential toxicity levels, use directions, disposal instructions, environmental hazards, and storage information. Also be familiar with any restrictions on plant back intervals or grazing that are listed on the tag before use.

2. **Wear the right PPE.** Most seed tags at minimum require long pants, long sleeves, shoes, socks, and chemical resistant gloves to handle the product. However, be sure to read the label to make sure you have the correct PPE available and wear it when needed.

Along with wearing PPE and reviewing the seed tag, choosing the right chemical resistant gloves is key to safe handling. Unlined chemical resistant gloves that cover the forearm provide protection over a greater area and reduce the risk of exposure. Cotton lined gloves, while more comfortable, absorb pesticides, are hard to clean, and increase your risk of exposure. Many seed treatments require wearing gloves that have 14-mil (.0001 inch) thickness or greater when handling treated seed. These gloves can be made from a variety of materials and are categorized by the EPA by their chemical resistance.

Chemical resistance categories (designated A-H) may be listed on the pesticide label and are based on the solvent rather than the actual pesticides. These categories describe the time you can safely handle a product using the material and thickness of different gloves. Many seed tags will list the EPA chemical resistance category or simply list the glove requirements directly on the seed tag. More infor-

Burt County Public Power District News Tekamah, Nebraska 68061 Phone 374-2631 or 1-888-835-1620 **Board of Directors**

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Meetings

In accordance with Nebraska Statute, notice is hereby given that the regular meetings of the Board of Directors of the Burt County Public Power District are held on the 1st Thursday of each month, commencing at 9:30 A.M. at the district office located in Tekamah, Nebraska. In the event that a holiday falls on the said 1st Thursday, the meeting date shall be as set by the Board of Directors and published in the Legal Notice.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours at least three (3) days prior to each meeting; provided however, that the Board of Directors shall have the right to modify the said agenda to include items of an emergency nature.

Office Hours

7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

mation can be obtained by downloading the current label from the seed treatment provider.

So, when handling treated seed this planting season be safe, reduce exposure, and always wear your PPE. Think of ways to reduce exposure such as using a stick to mix graphite or talc in seed, even when wearing gloves. In the event of a spill of treated seed, cover or dispose of the product following label instructions. Review the first aid before using the product and have clean water, soap, and single use towels with you. This way you can wash your reusable gloves before removing them, and then remember to wash your hands with soap and water afterwards. Lastly, remember to inspect your PPE and replace items that are worn out or no longer effective. Have a safe planting season and for more information on glove selection, see NebGuide G1961, Pesticide Safety: Choosing the Right Gloves.

For more information on being safe when handling treated seed, feel free to give me a call at 402-352-3821, email me at anygren2@unl.edu, follow me on Twitter at [@colfaxcountyext](https://twitter.com/colfaxcountyext), or contact your local Nebraska Extension office.