

BURT COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER

PO Box 209
Tekamah, NE 68061

It's Your Power!



Is A Power Line Insulated? (and Other Myths Debunked)

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire, and other conundrums:

What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 9-1-1 to report. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark or arc and it may not make any noise at all (although it could).

Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street or ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it is not automatically dead, even if the power is off in your area. There's a good chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, it also means the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.

Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other critter can sit on a power line all day happy as a lark because there is no path to ground. If the animal were to come in contact with the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and DO NOT WALK, but hop away.

Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.



How to Identify and Respond to Scammers

Unfortunately, scams are becoming more and more frequent in today's world. This past June, BCPPD had a scammer target Tekamah businesses. BCPPD reminds customers to be vigilant and never give out private information or provide credit card or bill information to callers. We offer the following tips and information to avoid being scammed:

- ◆ BCPPD does not call customers and ask for a credit card number, or other credit card information.
- ◆ BCPPD will not demand payment with a pre-paid card.
- ◆ Customers receiving such a call should not attempt to make a payment over the phone using a credit or debit card.
- ◆ If you do encounter a call such as this, write down the callback number or consider asking where the caller is located.
- ◆ Please let us know at 888-835-1620, if you have received such a call.

Building a New Grain Bin on Your Farm? Remember Grain Bins Have Clearance Requirements

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines: when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.

Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind related to power lines is grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements.

If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact Burt County Public Power District at 888-835-1620. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line extremely dangerous, it will most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

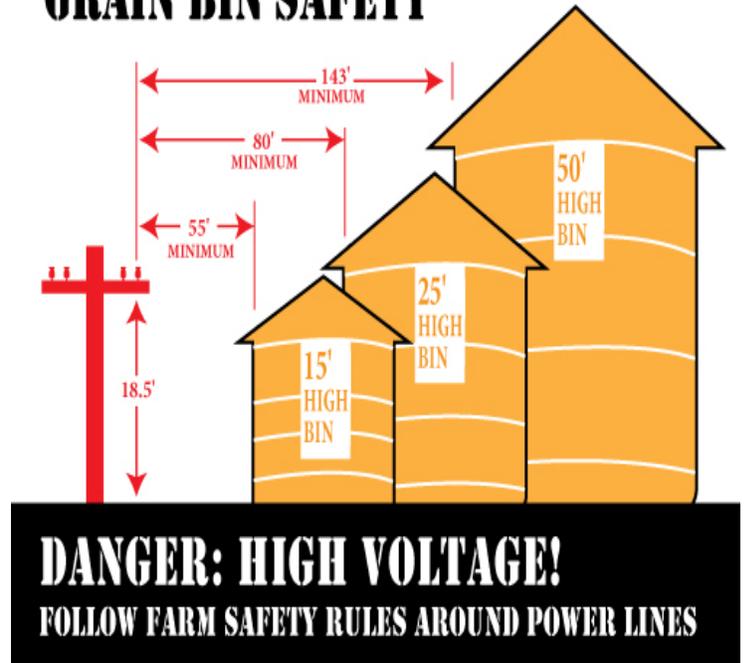
Remember, calling us before installing a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly, it interrupts your farming schedule and is just an all-around hassle. The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements so don't leave a bin's location to chance.

For example, a grain bin that is 30 feet high must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

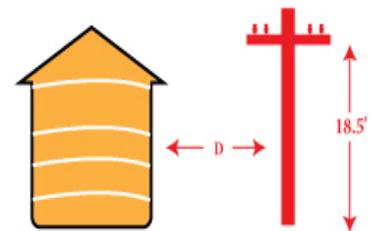
Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY



Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.



Office Holiday Closing

Our office will be closed, Monday, September 2nd in observation of Labor Day. In case of emergency, please call our toll free number 1-888-835-1620. Thank you and have a safe holiday.



If You Feel a Shock, Swim Away from the Dock

Safe Electricity wants to help keep the fun in water recreation activities and is sharing the message, “If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock,” to educate people on how to stay safe from a hidden hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats can cause situations where electricity “leaks” into the water. It’s a particularly dangerous hazard because it’s impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60 watt light bulb, can cause drowning. They also report that most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout out to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not head to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection at the meter base, and/or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical

Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps in order to enhance water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations and maintenance should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.
- Docks should have GFCI breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes.
- Have your boat’s electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and be serviced by an ABYC Certified® Technician.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Dormitory 101: Make Room for Safety

The car is loaded up and check-in is about to start on college campuses across the country. While you want to have all the comforts of home at school, there are some **electrical safety tips to keep in mind** as you set up your new space.

- **Do not** overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- Use power strips with **overcurrent protectors**. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some commonly **approved safety labels** include **UL, CSA, and MET**.

- **Unplug small appliances** when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Keep all electrical appliances and **cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material**.

Check with your **university’s housing department** on specific housing rules before planning to bring hot plates, coffee makers, toasters, microwaves, and portable heaters.

For more information on dorm safety, visit:

 Safe
Electricity.org

Nebraska Extension News

By John Wilson , Extension Educator

Nebraska Soybean Management Field Days

The 21st annual Soybean Management Field Days (SMFDs), scheduled for August 13-16, will focus on helping farmers stay competitive in a global marketplace. The field days will offer farmers research-based information to improve their soybean profitability.

The SMFDs will help soybean growers maximize productivity and profitability through smart decisions and efficient use of resources. Meeting the world's growing food and energy needs starts right here in Nebraska at the 2019 Soybean Management Field Days! Join us at a site near you. A complimentary admission and lunch included. CEUs are also available for Certified Crop Advisors.

The field days are sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff in partnership with University of Nebraska Extension and are funded through soybean checkoff dollars. The efforts of the checkoff are directed by the United Soybean Board promoting progress powered by U.S. soybean farmers.

The closest location this year will be on the Tim & Angie Labenz farm near Pilger on Wednesday, August 14. To get to the site, go 2½ miles south of the Hwy 275 & Hwy 15 junction (Pilger turnoff), turn west (right) on 838½ Road for 1 mile, then turn south (left) on 573 Avenue. Go about 1 mile south and the field day site will be on the left (east) side of the road... or just follow the signs.

Other locations are Sargent on Tuesday, August 13; Plymouth on Thursday, August 15; or Waverly on Friday, August 16. You can go to <https://go.unl.edu/2019smfd> for more information and directions.

Learn how to profitably apply the products of technology and research at the farm level. This educational event is for you - the soybean grower and agronomic representatives supporting the soybean industry. Experts will share their knowledge and experiences as they relate to soybean production, marketing and management.

Topics that will be included at the 2019 SMFDs include:

- Making Sense of Production Costs and Policy Changes
- Soybean Insects & Cover Crops
- Hail Damage Impact on Growth & Development of Soybeans
- Management of Cover Crops & Soybean Insects and Pathogens
- Soybean Weed Control & Cover Crops
- Cover Crop - Pros & Cons Associated with Soybean Production
- Soybean Production & Agronomic Topics Associated with Cover Crops – Planting Rates, Row Spacing, Planting Dates, Maturity Groups, Irrigation Management

Burt County Public Power District News

Tekamah, Nebraska 68061
Phone 374-2631 or 1-888-835-1620

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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.

By attending a SMFD, you will see your checkoff dollars at work bringing you leading technology and ideas. The event consists of four stops across the state, each with replicated research, demonstration plots, lunch and time for questions. You can get ideas and insight about the challenges you face in producing a quality crop at a profitable price in today's global economy.

Crop production, disease, and insect specialists will be available to address your questions. Participants can bring unknown crop problems for complimentary identification. The field days begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. Free registration is available the day of the event. The program will be held rain or shine.

For more information about the field days and maps to sites, visit <https://go.unl.edu/2019smfd>, or contact the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff at 800.852.BEAN (2326) or your local Nebraska Extension office.

