

BURT COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER

PO Box 209
Tekamah, NE 68061

It's Your Power!



INCREASE YOUR SAFETY YIELD DURING HARVEST

Especially during the busy harvest season, help decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.

- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

- Never try to move or raise a power line for clearance; instead call us.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

For more information about electrical safety, including farming-related safety tips, visit:



Burt's Briefs

After hours outage calls. Burt County Public Power District uses NPPD's customer care center in Norfolk for all after hours calls. Please call 1-888-835-1620 to report any outage you may have after normal business hours. Thank you!

When the lights go off. Check your fuses. Check both the main service panel in the house, and the box below the meter if there is one. Check neighbors. If you do not have lights, check with your neighbors. If they are on the same line it will help us determine if the problem is on your service or on the line.

Report the outage. To report outages call the Burt County PPD office at 402-374-2631 or 888-835-1620, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. After hours outages call 888-835-1620. This call will be answered by the customer care center in Norfolk who take our after hours calls.

Give accurate information. When reporting an outage be sure to give an accurate name, phone number and service or account number (which is on your billing statement), location and nature of the problem.

Note: When a crew is dispatched for an outage and the problem is found on the customer's side of the meter, the district may require a service charge.

Report clearance problems. This is the time of year when a clearance problem can become a fatality. If you know of a situation anywhere on our lines where clearance is not adequate, please let us know.



It's Large and In Charge: Respect the Mighty Substation

You may live near or drive by a substation each day and not give it much thought unless you happen to be an electrical engineer or utility employee.

Although they look like something that could transform into a giant-sized, building-stomping futuristic robot, substations play an important role in providing electricity to your work or home.

As most people know, fenced-in substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them, and their job (as its name implies) is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa depending on its location on the distribution path.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur.

Stay Safe Around Substations

Substations carry high voltages of electricity and they should be respected. Burt County Public Power District and Safe Electricity remind you to:

- NEVER go near a substation.
- Teach children to NEVER go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Let them know they should always stay away and tell a parent or adult, who should call us to report the incident at 402-374-2631 or 888-835-1620.
- In general, teach children about the dangers of electricity from a young age.
- If a transformer near your home catches on fire, DO NOT try to put out the fire yourself (water and electricity don't mix). Call 9-1-1 to report the fire.
- If you see an issue with or notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power line, contact us. Never try to address a problem yourself.

Once you have the safety tips down, consider a fun fact to know about transmission substations. There are three types: step-up, step-down, and distribution. According to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration):

- A step-up version receives electric power from a nearby generating facility and uses a large power transformer to increase the voltage so it can travel to distant locations.
- Step-down transmission substations are located at switching points on an electrical grid and connect different parts of the electrical system.
- And finally, distribution substations are located near end-users like you and me and change voltages to lower levels to power homes and businesses.

Keep Cyber Invaders at Bay: Smart Device Technology Tips

Although not an exhaustive list and not written by security experts, Safe Electricity and Burt County Public Power District recommend these basic tips to make your smart devices less hackable and more secure:

1. NEVER click a link in an email claiming to be from a security- or smart-home related company, even if it looks official. Scammers and hackers get sign-in information and passwords this way, which they can use to hack your smart technology.
2. Although tempting, don't use all the same passwords for all of your devices.
3. Absolutely change factory-set passwords provided by the manufacturer.
4. Make your passwords complex and challenging.
5. If you do receive an email from your smart device manufacturer, see if the email address the company used is the same as the one they have used to contact you in the past. These emails should be general in nature and should never ask for personal or log-in information.
6. Never give out log-in or password or other personal information in an email, over the phone, or for any other reason unless you are the one contacting the company directly via verified phone number or other trusted method of contact.
7. Regularly update the device's software so that it is protected by the latest security.
8. Unless the hacker makes him/herself known, it can be hard to detect if a smart device has been hacked until the obvious happens.
9. If it has been hacked, your gadget might be slower than usual, unresponsive, or compulsively reboot.
10. If you are tech savvy, keep watch on the IP addresses that access the devices.

Disclaimer: Tips are designed to increase awareness. For expert and in-depth technology advice, contact an IT professional or manufacturer. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

PUBLIC



MONTH

DID YOU
KNOW?

#Nebraska is the only state in the nation
in which every electric utility is owned
by the customers it serves.



Put Energy-Efficient DIY Projects to Work for You

Do you hear the term “DIY” and cringe? Or perhaps you are a DIY extraordinaire, looking for the next project to complete.

Along with crafty DIY projects, there are some energy efficient ones that can help you save money. Before digging in, however, make sure the project fits both your budget and your DIY wheelhouse. For example, don’t try to change out your inefficient windows with more efficient versions unless you know it is a project you can take on.

DIY projects can add up, but in a good way. According to Energy.gov, sealing uncontrolled air leaks can save from \$83 to \$166 a year. Weather stripping double-hung windows can save \$42 to \$86 annually. And insulating your electric water heater tank can save \$20 to \$45 a year.

If you take the mid-range amounts for all three modifications, they can save \$221 a year.

Additional easy-to-do projects or steps that could save you money include:

- Turning down your hot water heater. Although some manufacturers recommend setting hot water heaters at 140°F, consider setting it at a lower temperature (120°F minimum). Reducing the temperature setting can slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your hot water heater and pipes, according to Energy.gov. The higher (140°F) temperature is not ideal for homes with small children since water that hot can scald.
- Insulating your hot water pipes to help reduce heat loss and raise your water’s temperature.
- Insulating and reducing air leaks in floors over garages. You can seal air leaks and add insulation to make the living space more comfortable and make that part of your home more energy efficient.
- Depending on how well your attic is insulated, consider adding more insulation. There are several types of insulation and the R- or Resistance-value that you will need depends on several variables, including where you live and your climate. Energy.gov and Energystar.gov publish maps that outline recommended R-values.
- Consider installing an attic stairs cover box to improve air leaks and comfort. You can build your own box, purchase a kit, or even buy a pre-built box. According to Energy.gov, the box should be durable enough to withstand repeated openings and closings, have an R-value similar to the rest of your attic insulation, and provide an air seal.
- Here is an easy one: applying frosted contact paper to the windows in or by your front door. Not only can you increase privacy, but you will decrease heat transfer.
- If you do not have one, consider installing a programmable thermostat or a smart thermostat. Either improvement can make a difference on your energy bill, especially if you select a higher temperature in the summer and lower temperature in the winter when you won’t be there.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice

and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov

Nebraska Extension News

By John Wilson , Extension Educator

Don't Spread Weed Seed at Harvest

Weeds are always a challenge, but this year seems like it was even worse due to delayed planting last spring, soybeans that didn't close their canopy until later in the growing season, more weeds developing resistance to commonly used herbicides, and difficulty making post-emergence herbicide applications to control weeds at the proper stage of growth.

While it's too late to control those weeds this year, there may be opportunities to reduce their impact in your fields next year by not spreading their seed at harvest. To reduce the movement of weed seed from one field to another, farmers should take care to do three steps, whenever possible:

- Remove problem weeds prior to harvest to prevent contamination of the combine,
- Consider your harvest order, harvesting weedy fields last to prevent carrying weed seed to currently clean fields, and
- Practice good clean-out procedures prior to moving to clean fields.

A full clean-out may be impractical due to the time constraints of cleaning the complex interior of a combine. However, you should focus on priority areas where significant material may remain in the combine, only to be dislodged in following fields.

A brief 20 to 30 minute cleaning will remove much of the material that may easily come loose in other fields. Steps in this cleaning procedure should include:

- Run the unloading auger empty for at least one minute.
- Open the clean grain and tailings elevator doors, rock trap, and unloading auger sump. An optional is to remove the header from the combine prior to self-cleaning.
- Start the combine and separator, then
 - * Adjust the cleaning shoe fan to full speed for maximum airflow and alternately open and close cleaning shoe sieves electronically, or
 - * Adjust rotor to full speed for maximum air suction and alternately open and close the concaves.
- Operate the combine this way for at least two minutes for self-cleaning. Another option is to drive over end rows or rough terrain to dislodge material during operation.
- Clean any material left in the rock trap.
- Use a leaf blower or air compressor to remove material from the exterior of the combine, focusing on the head, feederhouse, and axle and straw spreader at the rear of the machine.
- Remember to close the doors to the rock trap, clean grain elevator and unloading auger sump.

This clean-out procedure will not reduce the importance of practicing weed control tactics like removing weeds prior to harvest or choosing harvest order to prevent cross-contamination of fields. It will reduce movement of material and weed seed to fields harvested later in the season. At the end of the harvest season, a full combine clean-out should be completed for maintenance of the machine.

Burt County Public Power District News

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

Board of Directors

Gerald Bohling	President
Michael J. Chatt	Vice President
Michael R. Williams	Treasurer
Greg Johnson	Secretary
Dwane Piere	Director
Scott Lindstrom	Director
Jonathon Dockhorn	Manager
RVW, Inc.	Engineer
Blankenau Wilmoth LLP	Attorney

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.

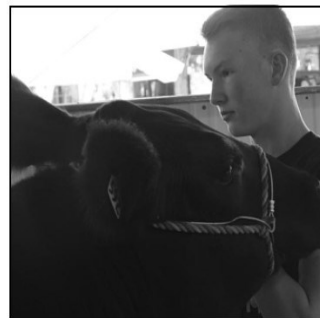
An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours at least three (3) days prior to each meeting; provided however, that the Board of Directors shall have the right to modify the said agenda to include items of an emergency nature.

Office Hours

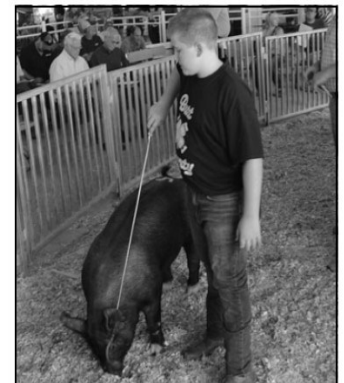
7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Congratulations

...to All 4-H and FFA Members Who Participated
at the Burt County Fair This Year!



Spencer Pagels
Market Beef Purple



Levi Blackford
Market Swine Purple

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PUBLIC POWER
FOR NEBRASKA



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402-374-2631