

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

MAY 2019



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Cortez, CO 81321-0676



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Cortez, CO 81321



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SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running heating and cooling systems and appliances. It's no wonder we're so comfortable with this instant availability: When we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job correctly.

May is National Electrical Safety Month and we at Empire Electric Association think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards to ensure your electric products are working properly.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations, such as a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room, often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

LOOSE OR DAMAGED OUTLETS OR SWITCHES

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock



or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

SURGE PROTECTORS

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection ends and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they stop working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

EXTENSION CORDS

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in a home that needs wiring revisions. With a growing number

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POWERADVANTAGE

EEA OFFERS A NEW PAYMENT OPTION



What are the benefits of a prepay account?

A prepay electric account allows members to actively monitor their usage and pay when and how they wish. Set up a free account online at www.eea.coop to easily manage your account from the comfort of your home or business.

No monthly bill or due date. You will no longer receive a bill statement from EEA.

No security deposit. No deposit is required. You pay only a modest fee of \$50.00 that will be applied toward your future energy usage.

No late fees. Payments are made ahead of time, so there is no risk of being penalized for late payments.

No collection or reconnect fees. **PowerAdvantage** accounts are self-service. No EEA employees are dispatched when your account funds run low. Notifications are sent by email, text message, or automated phone call. If your account runs out of funds, your service is automatically disconnected by remote control from the office. Once a payment is made to establish a minimum balance, your service is automatically reconnected without additional fees.

More payment flexibility. **PowerAdvantage** can be a great tool for those who struggle to pay their bill each month. With prepay, you can decide when you want to deposit funds into your account.

24-7 access. Check your electricity usage at anytime and see how daily energy choices directly affect your pocketbook. Lower your energy costs to free up the family budget for other expenses.

Call EEA at (970) 565-4444 or (800) 709-3726 from Utah to explore the possibilities of a prepay account. Our representatives will walk you through the process and answer your questions about this new option.



EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Co-op Calendar

May 10

Empire's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting.

May 12

Mother's Day

May 27

Memorial Day, EEA Office Closed

Photo Contest Winner for May



 **Yellow Swallowtail**
by Chalana Wilson

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU *continued from page 7*

of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from EEA, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use. If they show any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, they should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is a vital necessity for modern living and EEA is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all consumer-members. EEA hopes you keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

NOTICE OF 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Annual Meeting of the members of Empire Electric Association, Inc., will be held in Cortez, Colorado, at Empire's Calvin Denton Room at 801 N. Broadway, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, to transact the following business:

- I. Election of directors submitted by written petition pursuant to Article III Section 4 of the cooperative's bylaws. One director is to be elected from the following districts:
DISTRICT NO. 2 [Two years to fulfill remaining term]
DISTRICT NO. 5 [Four-year term]
DISTRICT NO. 6 [Four-year term]
(NOTE: Article III, Section 4 of Empire's bylaws states, "Should there be only one nomination from each district open for election then no ballots will be mailed or cast and the candidate will be declared elected as a matter of law at the annual meeting or within five (5) days thereafter as provided by law.")
- II. Voting upon proposed amendment to the bylaws and articles of incorporation, if necessary
- III. Reports of Officers, Directors and Committees and action thereon
- IV. Any other business transacted which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Jerry Fetterman, Secretary-Treasurer
Empire Electric Association, Inc.
PO Box K
Cortez, Colorado 81321

My Co-op Employees



Congratulations to Jake Thurman on his recent promotion to working foreman. Jake started with Empire Electric as a summer helper on May 27, 2008. He worked as a summer laborer and temporary storekeeper until January 16, 2010. At that time, he accepted a full-time position as storekeeper. On September 1, 2010, Jake was promoted to apprentice lineman and advanced to journeyman lineman on August 9, 2014. On March 13, 2019, Jake accepted the position of working foreman.

SAVE the DATE

Empire Electric's Annual Meeting

**JUNE
20th**

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Registration 4:30 p.m.

Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Empire Electric Association - 801 N. Broadway, Cortez, CO

**Know what's underground before you dig.
Call 811 to get underground public
utilities located for free.**



Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$16 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.1 billion in 2017 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

