

# EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

## Echoes of the Empire

JUNE 2020



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# THE FIVE P'S

BY ANDY CARTER  
MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
AND CLINT RAPIER SYSTEM ENGINEER



ANDY CARTER



CLINT RAPIER

**P**rior Planning Prevents Poor Performance! This admonition drilled into my subconscious by an Air Force instructor pops up every now and then, especially when plumbing or hydraulics are involved. It seems no matter how much thought I put into my project I am missing a connector of some sort. Some of us have experienced this in a more dramatic fashion as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of us to work with what we have on hand. Running to the store was not an option and, even if you did sometimes, what you really needed was not available.

The electric distribution business is no stranger to planning. Empire Electric Association and our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc., dedicate a lot of resources planning for future power needs as well as maintaining what our consumer-members use today. Planning is not just for the power supply itself but also for the transmission and distribution system that safely and reliably delivers that power to your home or business.

The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is a commonly used reliability indicator used by electric utilities to track and compare outages experienced by the people they serve. EEA's SAIDI in 2019 was 87.94 minutes per consumer for the year, which translates to a score of 99.9% reliability. That high reliability score is a combination of good planning and adequate spending on maintenance, equipment and training by EEA and Tri State. Plus, dedicated crews who not only take care of the daily

grind of system construction and maintenance but also roll out quickly no matter the weather or time of day to restore your power during an outage.

Another important planning exercise that takes place at EEA is the annual budgeting process where our finance department looks at historical revenue and expenses and compares that to projected future cash flow and planned project expenses to make sure we can meet our financial obligations while maintaining our distribution system and planning for the future. The rates EEA charges and how they are structured plays an important part in EEA's ability to maintain a stable financial condition. The more closely our rate structure aligns with how we incur costs, the more closely each consumer-member

**EEA Annual Meeting**  
Has Been Rescheduled  
**October 8, 2020**  
Registration 4:30 to 5:30 pm  
Meeting starts at 5:30 pm  
Calvin Denton Room • 801 N Broadway, Cortez



System Average Interruption Duration Index	=	sum of all customer interruption durations
		total number of customers served
2019 SAIDI	87.94 =	$\frac{1,420,260 \text{ Total Outage Minutes}}{16,151 \text{ customers served}}$

is charged for the services he or she is provided.

EEA's consumer-members also play an important part in the planning process. As your individual power needs change, EEA needs you to keep the cooperative informed, especially if that means you are adding a significant load to your home or business. EEA's system is sized to safely serve the needs it has now with some room for growth. However, the expense of oversizing facilities to meet future needs that may or may not happen could have drastic upward rate pressure.

EEA's rules and regulations in section III.G require consumer-members to provide advanced written notice to EEA for load additions and to obtain a consent before installing them. EEA considers adding a large appliance like an air source

heat pump or an electric vehicle charger or converting a gas appliance like a cookstove, dryer or water heater to electric as a significant load requiring you to talk to EEA first. Increasing your demand, or load, on EEA's system without verifying it has the facilities in place first can be dangerous and costly for you (talk about poor performance), and unfair to those who utilize that system around you. If your transformer or other facilities were to fail prematurely because you overloaded them, you are liable for the replacement cost of those facilities.

If you intend to increase your load or want to add an additional electric service on our system, the first people you should contact at EEA are in our engineering department (there's prior planning). You can find forms online at [eea.coop](http://eea.coop) to provide our engineers with

the information they need to evaluate your service to determine if you need an upgrade. Or, you can call our engineering hotline at 970-546-4406 and leave a message with your contact information, and one of our engineers will contact you as soon as possible to discuss your power needs. Complete and accurate information is necessary — we cannot design for things we don't have good information on.

EEA's employees work hard and take pride in serving our membership and keeping the lights on. It's a team effort that reaches from the generation plant and our partner Tri-State's transmission system, to EEA's distribution system to your home or business where we strive to safely deliver reliable power in a responsible way. You are an integral part of that team. Thank you for helping us do our job well.

### Photo Contest Winner



 **American Bald Eagle**  
by Rebecca Syndergaard

### My Co-op Calendar

#### June 12

EEA'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](http://eea.coop). Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting. Meeting restrictions due to health concerns may require the meeting to be held remotely.

#### June 15

Continuing Education  
Scholarships Due

#### June 20

First Day of Summer

#### June 21

Father's Day

# 2020 EEA Scholarship Winners



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Casen Allmon  
MCHS



Kylie Breitenbac  
MCHS



Lauren Butler  
Dolores



Nadyezhada Erlandson  
Dolores



Rylee Finley  
MCHS



Gabe Frizzell  
MCHS



Kira Galbraith  
MCHS



Cassie Gatlin  
Dove Creek



Magdalena Halls  
Mancos



Hayden Leggett  
MCHS



Taylor Hickman  
Dove Creek



Brooklyn Holt  
Monticello



McKenzy Howerton  
Dolores



Hyrum Johnson  
Monticello



Vanessa Key  
Adult



Salem Knuckles  
MCHS



Adri Lewis  
Monticello



Kiara Lingenfelter  
Dove Creek



Rylee Majors  
MCHS



Morgan Maloy  
Monticello



Mercedes Martinez  
Dolores



Shelbie Musselman  
Monticello



Dimery Plewe  
MCHS



Maya Powell  
Mancos



Caden Showalter  
Mancos



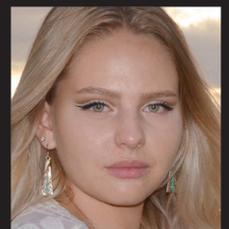
Rianna Shumway  
Monticello



Destinie Smith  
Adult



Kasey Wallace  
Mancos



Kiffany Whitmer  
MCHS

# Building Safety In

By Andy Carter, *Member Engagement Manager*

Summertime is a great time to tackle those building projects you have been dreaming of. When you start putting those plans in action, electrical safety should be at the top of the list. Here are some things to keep in mind when it comes to building around electric facilities.

## Know What's There:

- Look for poles, overhead wires, and pad mounted transformers.
- Call 811 to have underground utilities located.



## Keep Your Distance:

- You must maintain 30 feet of clearance (15 feet either side of centerline) from overhead single-phase lines and 40 feet of clearance (20 feet either side of centerline) from three phase lines.
- You must maintain 20 feet of clearance (10 feet either side of centerline) from underground lines.
- If you are using equipment near power lines while building the structure, maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance. If you cannot maintain clearance, consult with EEA to discuss de-energizing the line

## Plan for Activity Around the Structure:

- If you are building a structure near overhead power lines, take into account what activity will be happening near it. Moving vehicles and equipment around the building must maintain a 10-foot separation from the overhead power line at all times.
- If there is access to the top of the structure you must take into account clearances for someone on top of the structure. An example is a farmer's grain bin. The National Electric Safety Code provides requirements for separation from overhead powerlines of grain bins and permanent or portable augers.



## If You Make Contact with a Power Line, Don't Get Out of Your Vehicle!

- Stay put and call 911 to dispatch an EEA crew to de-energize the line.
- If you must get out because of smoke or fire, make a solid jump without touching any part of the vehicle and "bunny hop" away to avoid electrocution.
- Stay at least 30 feet away from a downed power line. Remember, you cannot tell if a power line is de-energized by looking at it.