

Chimney Rock News

Touchstone Energy The power of human connections

Choice is Local Control

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May, 2021

Manager Memos -by Alvin Harimon

Dear Consumer,

May is here and soon school will be out and the farming will be in full swing. Be careful out in the fields and watch for poles and wires along the ends. If anything should happen that damages any of our equipment, please let us know as soon as possible and stay safe around any downed poles or wires.

May is a good month as it is National BBQ Month and it covers everyone as it is also National Salad Month. May also has National Nurses Week on the first week then the third week is National Police Week and week four is National Medical Services Week. On the 1st is May Day and the 4th is National Teachers Day, then the 5th is Cinco De Mayo, and on the 7th is the National Day of Prayer, the 9th is Lost Sock Memorial Day and Mother's Day. The 14th is Dance Like a Chicken Day (I have always danced like that), the 15th is Armed Forces Day, and on the 25th is National Missing Children's Day. The 28th is Don't Fry Friday but that does not make sense because it is also National Hamburger Day. On the 31st it is World No Tobacco Day and the holiday that gets us thinking about summer, Memorial Day. Have a good summer and stay safe in whatever you have planned. Remember our phones are answered 24 hours a day so if you spot a problem or have an outage let us know.

Our Office will be Closed: Monday, May 31st in honor of Memorial Day



Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, Energy Star appliances and LED lights. Must be new installations only.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

*Electric water heaters - \$30 -\$100/unit

*Heat pumps-\$300-\$500/ton 15 SEER Minimum

*Electric motors 10-500 hp \$8/hp *2 Ton or larger Energy Star air conditioners-\$100-\$150/unit

*Energy Star Appliances (refrig, freezer, clothes or dish washer and clothes dryers) \$30-\$90

*LED lights - lesser of 1/2 cost of lights or \$8 per lamp, 500 Lumens or greater

*Electric trimmer, chainsaw, or pruner, electric blower or lawnmower - 25% of cost, up to \$100

Receipts are generally required. Chimney Rock also contributes to some of the credit.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.

Let us help pay for your new electric appliances and motors.

Tree Trimming Improves Service for All

We are fortunate to have trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. At Chimney Rock Public Power, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable Chimney Rock PPD to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could

hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. We must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. Proactive vegetation management benefits our customers in three tangible ways.

Safety - First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else.



Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our customers' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Reliability - Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

Affordability - As you know, Chimney Rock PPD strives to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

May is Electrical Safety Month - Know What's Above and Below Before You Start

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vitally important for you and your family's safety. Even drop-down lines — the lines that bring power to a home — have voltages running through them and can be dangerous. Always look up and around for power lines, recognizing too that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact, before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job. Here are some tips to keep in mind while working in your yard and around power lines:

- Assume that all power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding.
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area, noting all power line locations.
- Call 8-1-1 to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.
- Utility locators do not mark private lines, however. Private underground lines—typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor—include, but are not limited to:
 - Irrigation or septic system lines.
 - Lines that service outbuildings (electric, gas, water, communication).
 - Lines between the meter and your home.
 - Lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs.

Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service.

- Once underground utilities are marked, the 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" service recommends that the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Do not install tree houses, playsets or swing sets, pools or decks and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment (including the arc of a swing) and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate your children about power line safety and how electricity can jump. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one either directly or with a toy or object.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools, such as pool skimmers, around trees and power lines.
- Also use extreme caution and look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, a boom lift, scaffolding or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.



Air Fryer Pizza

Grands Biscuit-flaky layers Pizza Sauce Italian sausage Pepperoni Shredded mozzarella cheese

Open the package of biscuits and separate each biscuit into two layers. Roll each piece of biscuit out into a 4-inch circle. Top each dough circle with about 2 teaspoons of pizza sauce.

Add a couple of slices of pepperoni to each pizza. Add fully cooked sausage to each pizza.

Sprinkle mozzarella cheese over top of each pizza. Spray the air fryer basket with non-stick cooking spray. Gently transfer 2-4 pizzas to the basket, depending on how large your air fryer is. Cook at 400 degrees for 4 minutes or until golden brown.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause

your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



FOR MORE TIPS, VISIT SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



Cell phones don't belong in bed

Do not sleep or lounge with a charging cell phone or other device. You could burn your skin or set bedding on fire.

Don't overload outlets

It's tempting to plug several cords on one circuit, but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring and may start a fire.





Pay attention to flickering lights



Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home. Flickering lights, warm or discolored outlets, frequently tripped circuits or fuses, or smoky odors may mean you have

a problem. Consult a qualified electrician.

Chimney Rock Public Power District 128 W 8th St. P O Box 608 Bayard, NE 69334

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During normal office hours and after hours call: (308) 586–1824 or (877) 773–6300

May Board Meeting: May 10th - 9:00 am

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