


# Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Cooperative Connections

NOVEMBER 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 7



**SALUTING  
OUR VETERANS**

Pg-8

# Safety for All



**Ken Schlimgen**  
General Manager

Central Electric has always been dedicated to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to you, our member-owners. The lengths we go to keep you, your family and our employees safe are a point of pride for us and are never taken lightly.

From acquiring new equipment and implementing procedures – including the rubber cover up featured in this newsletter – to increasing awareness of the proper electrical wiring, and supporting the Rural

Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), your electric cooperative strives to promote the highest standard of safety.

High voltage wires and equipment are a constant danger for cooperative line workers, but they can also pose a danger to cooperative members. That is why electric cooperatives are proud to be at the forefront of electrical safety education.

Our employees participate in monthly training sessions led by safety experts from the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA). They are tasked with educating our employees on every safety topic from defensive driving, to CPR and first aid, to working safely around “live” high voltage systems.

In addition to this monthly training, and monthly truck and tool inspections, our crews conduct daily “tailgate” sessions. These sessions are held prior to every job so everyone is aware of their responsibilities in order to complete their work safely. These extra efforts ensure that our employees are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of the job and the

importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible.

These extra efforts are paying dividends for your cooperative. Our employees are going home safely to their families each night, and we are reducing the cooperative’s cost of insurance.

In addition to safety training for employees, your cooperative is continuously raising awareness of electrical safety in our communities by performing demonstrations at local schools and community events. There, we show members just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity and how to prevent these dangerous, and sometimes deadly, mishaps. We also increase awareness of electrical safety by engaging with volunteer fire departments, emergency medical teams and sheriff’s departments on a regular basis, offering education courses and demonstrations. These programs keep our community safe.

We know that the more people we have who are knowledgeable about electrical safety, the safer we all will be. Please take the time to be aware of your surroundings. Take notice of where that overhead line is located when moving large machinery or installing that new grain bin. Call to have underground facilities located before you dig. Be aware of where the meter, transformers, and boxes are located that could be an obstacle when moving snow or just driving around the yard. Taking a little extra time will prevent an accident that could affect your pocketbook or change how you and your family live.

We strive, every day, to raise awareness of electrical safety. Our newsletter features an electric safety poster contest, our website has links to a variety of electrical safety articles, and we place safety ads and messages in area newspapers and radio stations—all in an effort to remind you to be safe.

There is nothing more important to us than to ensure that everyone, employee and member, makes it home safely at the end of the day.



# Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

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*Central Electric Cooperative Connections* is published monthly by Central Electric Cooperative PO Box 850, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 25 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodical Postage Paid at Mitchell, SD 57301 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell SD 57301 TELEPHONE (605)996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892; FAX (605)996-0869; e-mail cec@centralec.coop. Design assistance by TDG Communications, Deadwood.

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

24 - Hour Service  
1-605-996-7516 or  
1-800-477-2892

[www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)



**Mission Statement**  
Providing Reliable Energy and  
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
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Our office will be closed on  
**Wednesday, November 11**  
in observance of Veterans Day.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION  
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION  
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: Central Electric Cooperative Connections
2. Publication No.: 018-963
3. Filing Date: September 28, 2015
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6 for members \$12 Non members
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:  
25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:  
25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor & Managing Editor:  
Publisher: Central Electric Cooperative, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301  
Editor: Courtney J. Deinert, Central Electric Cooperative, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301  
Managing Editor: Courtney J. Deinert, Central Electric Cooperative, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
10. Owner: Central Electric Cooperative, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301
11. Known bondholders/mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: US Dept of Ag, RUS, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1566; CFC, Woodland Park, 2201 Cooperative Way, Herndon, VI 22071.

12. Tax Status: Purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
13. Publication Title: Central Electric Cooperative Connections

14. Issue Date of Circulation Below: Oct. 2015

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Avg. No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total number of copies (net press run)	4913	4890
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions	4650	4628
2. Paid In-County Subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales Through Dealers, Carriers, Street Vendors & Counter Sales	0	0
4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	4650	4628
D. Free Distribution by Mail	243	242
E. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
F. Total Free Distribution	243	242
G. Total Distribution	4893	4870
H. Copies Not Distributed	20	20
I. Total	4913	4890
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	95	95

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation as of October 1, 2015

## Generator Safety

**Before use**, learn about the potential dangers associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless poisonous gas that is called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate power AND safety when using a generator

### By The Numbers:

- African Americans accounted for 23 percent of fatalities, which is nearly double their proportion of the U.S. population.
- Storms account for many of the fatalities associated with generator use, with ice/snow storms accounting for 46 percent. Hurricanes accounted for 29 percent.
- 67 percent for the fatalities occurred when a generator was placed in the living area or basement of the home.
- 26 percent of fatalities occurred when a generator was used inside an attached garage or shed.
- Between 1992 and 2012, nearly 80 percent of the 931 CO deaths were associated with generators.
- 50 percent of generator-related deaths occurred during November- February.
- 30 percent occurred during March-April and September-October.

### Tips for the Proper Installation and Use of Generators:

- Never operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including garages.
- A generator is a temporary power source and should never be used as a permanent solution
- Never connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a transfer switch. This prevents backfeeding, which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Use only extension cords that have a three-pronged plug and are rated for the intended load.
- Your home generator should be installed by a qualified electrician and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.

- Do not overload the generator.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home

Source: [esfi.org](http://esfi.org)



## Federal Courts Issue Stays on WOTUS

**The District Court of North Dakota** issued a preliminary injunction in the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) case on Aug. 27 and, in a separate case on Oct. 9, the Sixth District Court of Appeals widened the stay nationwide. South Dakota joined 12 other states on Aug. 11, 2015, in the North Dakota case challenging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The states sought postponement of the impending implementation of the WOTUS Rule while the courts could fully address the states' concerns. On June 29, 13 states filed in federal district court in North Dakota asking the court to vacate the new rule and bar the EPA and the USACE from enforcing the new definition. Several other states have filed in their respective regions. The states contended the new definition of WOTUS violated provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the United States Constitution. Then on July 30, 31 states requested that the EPA and USACE delay the effective date of the new rule defining “Waters of the United States” under the CWA. The rule was set to go into effect on Aug. 28, 2015. The states asked for least nine months in order to give the courts time to review the legal challenges to the rule.

### Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**“Don't leave bare wires laying around.”**



#### Hannah Leona Bartscher, 10 years old

*Hannah was 10 years old when she submitted this safety poster. She is the daughter of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, S.D.*

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

# Crock Creations



## No Peek Beef Tips

- 2 lbs. beef tenderloin tips or stew meat
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
- 1 pkg. brown gravy mix
- 1 cup water or ginger ale
- 1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms

Place cubed beef into crockpot or 9x13-inch pan. In large bowl, combine soups, gravy mix and water or ginger ale; pour over beef. Add mushrooms; stir to coat. Cook on low in crock-pot for 4 hours or high for 2 hours. If cooking in oven, cover tightly with foil and bake at 300°F. for 3 hours. Serve over rice, mashed potatoes or noodles.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**

## Cranberry Sweet Potatoes

- 4 T. orange juice
- 2 T. butter
- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 lbs. sweet potatoes, washed, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries

In a crock-pot, mix together first 6 ingredients. Cover and cook on high while preparing potatoes. Stir potatoes into warm mixture. Cover and cook on high for 3 to 4 hours. Add cranberries during the last hour of cooking.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson**

## Crock-Pot Apple Butter

- Apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 2 to 3 cups sugar, can substitute 1 cup honey for sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. cloves
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. allspice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup water or apple cider

Fill crock-pot 3/4 full of apples. Add remaining ingredients; stir. Cover and cook on high for 1 hour, stir. Reduce heat to low. Keep covered and cook for 8 hours or overnight – until butter is thick and dark brown. If it is runny, remove lid and cook until thickened. Place in sterile jars or containers. Store in refrigerator up to 6 weeks. Freeze for longer storage.

**Mary Ellen Luikens, Tea**

## Baked Beans

- 1 lb. maple sausage
- 4 slices bacon
- 1/2 green pepper, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 cans Bush's original beans
- 1 can apple pie filling
- 1/2 cup Old West barbecue sauce
- 1 T. prime rib seasoning
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. yellow mustard

Brown and drain sausage. Fry bacon and cut into small pieces. Saute green pepper and onion in bacon grease; drain. Combine all ingredients in crock-pot. Cook on low for 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

**Donna Glanzer, Carpenter**

## Slow Cooker Fresh Veggie Lasagna

- 1-1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 cup low-sodium marinara sauce, plus additional for serving
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 4 no-boil lasagna noodles
- 1 bag baby spinach
- 1 cup thinly sliced mushrooms
- Fresh basil leaves, optional

Spray crockery pot of slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray; set aside. In a small bowl, mix together mozzarella, ricotta, Parmesan, egg, oregano and garlic powder. Spread 2 T. of pasta sauce in bottom of pot. Sprinkle 1/2 of zucchini over sauce and top with 1/3 of the cheese mixture. Break 2 noodles into pieces to cover cheese. Spread 2 T. of sauce and then layer 1/2 of the spinach and 1/2 of the mushrooms. Repeat layering, ending with cheese and the remaining sauce. Firmly press ingredients into pot. Cover and cook over low heat for 4 to 5 hours. Allow lasagna to rest 20 minutes before cutting into wedges to serve. Spoon a little extra sauce over each serving and top with a basil leaf, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

*Nutrition information per serving: 240 calories; 10g total fat; 6g saturated fat; 60mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 21g carbohydrates; 3g dietary fiber; 16g protein*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Crock-Pot Harvest Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
- 1 (29 oz.) can Veg-All vegetables
- 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 to 2 T. chopped jalapenos
- 6 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 (28 oz.) can green beans
- 1 (15 oz.) can corn
- 1 (7 oz.) can green chilies
- 1 to 2 tsp. chili powder

Place ground beef in crock-pot; add remaining ingredients. Do not drain any vegetables. Cook on low for 2 to 3 hours.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City**

## Crock-Pot Cabbage Roll Casserole

- 1-1/2 lbs. lean ground beef or pork, or a mixture of both
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 (15 oz.) tomato sauce, divided
- 1-1/3 cups water, divided
- 1 can tomato soup, divided
- 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 3/4 cup long grain white rice, uncooked
- 1 head cabbage
- 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, optional

Brown meat, onion, garlic and seasonings until no longer pink; drain. Over medium heat, add 1 cup tomato sauce, 1 cup water, 1/2 can tomato soup and tomatoes to meat mixture; mix well. Stir in rice. Chop cabbage into 4 wedges; remove core. Chop into chunks. Layer 1/2 meat mixture and 1/2 cabbage in crock-pot. Repeat layers topping with meat mixture or cabbage. Combine remaining sauce, water and soup. Pour over all. Cook on low 4 to 6 hours or until rice is cooked. Once done, turn off cooker, sprinkle with cheese and let set 10 minutes.

**Sandy Egly, Blunt**

*Please send your favorite holiday, soup and bread/ breakfast recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).*

*Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*

# The Next Technology in Well Pumping Solar Energy



**Patrick Soukup**  
Manager of Member Services & Marketing

Windmills on every farm and in remote pastures were a necessity for producers in the past. These units provided the pumping action for pump jacks to pull water to the surface to be used or stored for a later date. The desire and needs of having utility power on every farm changed the way water was brought to use. Now, windmills are not being used as generators of water but as novelty pieces. Their replacement is an electric motor that will pump the water whenever it is needed.

The AC motor is a consistent unit that does not need the wind to blow for the pump to bring water to the surface. The times are still changing with the introduction of solar well pumping.

Photovoltaic Technology or PV describes technology in which radiant light energy from the sun (not heat) is converted to direct current electrical energy. For example, think of those solar power calculators that we all probably have in our drawers at home. These PV concepts have been around for many years but have only been used on very small production items. Today, efficiencies in the production of PV panels has allowed the production cost to decrease.

Due to the cost of construction and maintenance of utility lines, solar well pumping becomes a cost effective option. The ideal place has been remote areas where utility power is not as accessible. This is not anything new since there are producers who are currently using this technology as we speak—man’s ability to overcome adversity, just like our founders did who brought power to rural communities.

I had the opportunity to help install and commission three new solar well pumps. These units all have the ability to run on the solar power of a direct current voltage like a battery or the alternating current power source being produced by a generator. You might ask, “why do you need a generator?” The sun doesn’t always shine in South Dakota, so the ability to connect a generator to the system provides assurance that you can pump water.

The design and specification of the system is based upon the customer’s needs; therefore, the cost varies. The key components are the pump, solar panel, disconnect/generator controller, float control unit, level switch, and well cable. Other parts include

the well pipe, electric connectors, boxes, and some additional wire and miscellaneous hardware for mounting the unit. The array that holds the panels in place is mounted to a 3” metal pipe that is encased in concrete (18” diameter and 5’ deep) so it is ready for South Dakota weather. Once the unit is mounted and the bolts are tightened, the unit is quite secure.

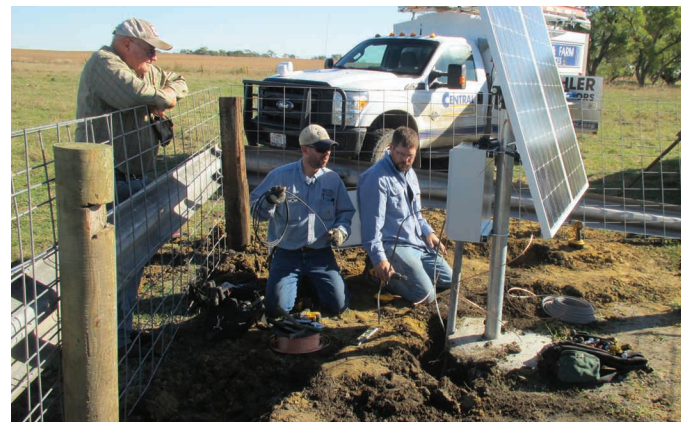
This solar well pump installation was a great opportunity for your cooperative. Those who installed the solar well pumps were Rodney Weber, Ryan Bigge, and Darren Hoffer. The experience we gain will continually be shared with members as we bring solar power to others. Solar collection is still very new to us all in the Midwest, but it is here to stay.

If you have any questions about these units or the cost, please give us a call at 605-996-7516.

**Stay tuned for upcoming dates for an open house and solar presentation at our Betts Road Office!**



**Above: Solar unit enclosed by panels with tank in the background  
Below: Rodney Weber and Ryan Bigge installing solar well pump unit as owner Richard Burghardt looks on**



# Schools Receive \$1 Million in Tax Revenue From Cooperative

Central Electric Cooperative's 2014 kwh sales taxes amounted to over \$1 million. The tax is based on total kwh's sold to the members in each school district.

Our wholesale power suppliers, East River Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, also pay the tax on the amount of kwh's purchased by Central Electric

Cooperative. The tax paid to school districts grows as members use more electric power and more members receive service.

The amounts listed are rounded to the nearest dollar and include the contribution from Central Electric Cooperative, East River Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

## Kwh Tax Listed by School District

<b>Bridgewater/Emery School District</b>	<b>\$6,681</b>	<b>Mt Vernon School District</b>	<b>\$29,091</b>
<b>Chamberlain School District</b>	<b>\$101,127</b>	<b>Oldham-Ramona School District</b>	<b>\$1,298</b>
<b>Corsica School District</b>	<b>\$212</b>	<b>Parkston School District</b>	<b>\$4,809</b>
<b>Ethan School District</b>	<b>\$15,487</b>	<b>Plankinton School District</b>	<b>\$60,040</b>
<b>Hanson School District</b>	<b>\$46,851</b>	<b>Platte Geddes School District</b>	<b>\$14,958</b>
<b>Howard School District</b>	<b>\$281,230</b>	<b>Sanborn Central School District</b>	<b>\$35,493</b>
<b>Huron School District</b>	<b>\$3,668</b>	<b>Stickney School District</b>	<b>\$16,606</b>
<b>Kimball School District</b>	<b>\$50,747</b>	<b>Wessington Springs School District</b>	<b>\$46,800</b>
<b>Madison School District</b>	<b>\$253</b>	<b>White Lake School District</b>	<b>\$18,892</b>
<b>McCook Central School District</b>	<b>\$630</b>	<b>Woonsocket School District</b>	<b>\$18,595</b>
<b>Miller Area School District</b>	<b>\$334</b>		
<b>Mitchell School District</b>	<b>\$285,708</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,039,802</b>

It's not always easy to see.

Look closely  
for overhead  
lines and poles.

Let's get everyone home  
safe this year.



# A Hill of Honor

## Family Builds Veterans Memorial East of Eden

By  
Brenda Kleinjan

**Below: Framed by a white fence, the Janisch Veteran's Memorial between Eden and Sisseton, S.D., emerged from a hillside over the summer.**

A SIMPLE FLAG POLE TO HONOR A VETERAN FATHER has become a veterans memorial along a highway in northeastern South Dakota.

The Janisch Family Veteran's Memorial has emerged from a gently sloping hillside which was once pasture. One can see Buffalo Lake across the highway in a setting surrounded by sloughs and cornfields.

The memorial started in the spring of 2015 when Jim Janisch erected a flag pole to honor his dad, Francis, who was an army paratrooper during the Korean Era.

Once the pole was up, a decision was made.

"The cows had to go," Janisch said of the bovines that once grazed where the memorial now stands. Once the flag pole was in place, Janisch then pondered what else should be added. He researched his options and the memorial began taking shape.

"Not one thing was ever put on a piece of paper," said Janisch.

Round paver stones were painted and stenciled by relatives in Sisseton. The stones spell out the branches of the U.S. armed forces and also the

letters "POW" and "MIA" to honor the nation's prisoners of war and those listed as missing in action. Two angels stand over the POW/MIA area and a smaller soldier statue on bended knee is down the hill a bit.

The memorial evolved from the original illuminated flag pole and a white cross adorned with solar lights. A white fence forming the memorial's backdrop was installed shortly after Memorial Day. Standing as sentinels along the fence are six soldier statues purchased in Alexandria, Minn. A large American eagle looks over the memorial from its perch atop a large rock on the memorial's west side.

By Father's Day, the memorial was officially open to the public. And, by Labor Day, more than 1,000 people had stopped at the little roadside oasis on a county highway between Sisseton and Eden on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation in northeastern South Dakota.

As people stop at the memorial, they share their stories. Among the first to stop while Janisch was in the early stages of creating the memorial was a local Korean War veteran, Roy Cleveland, who lives just







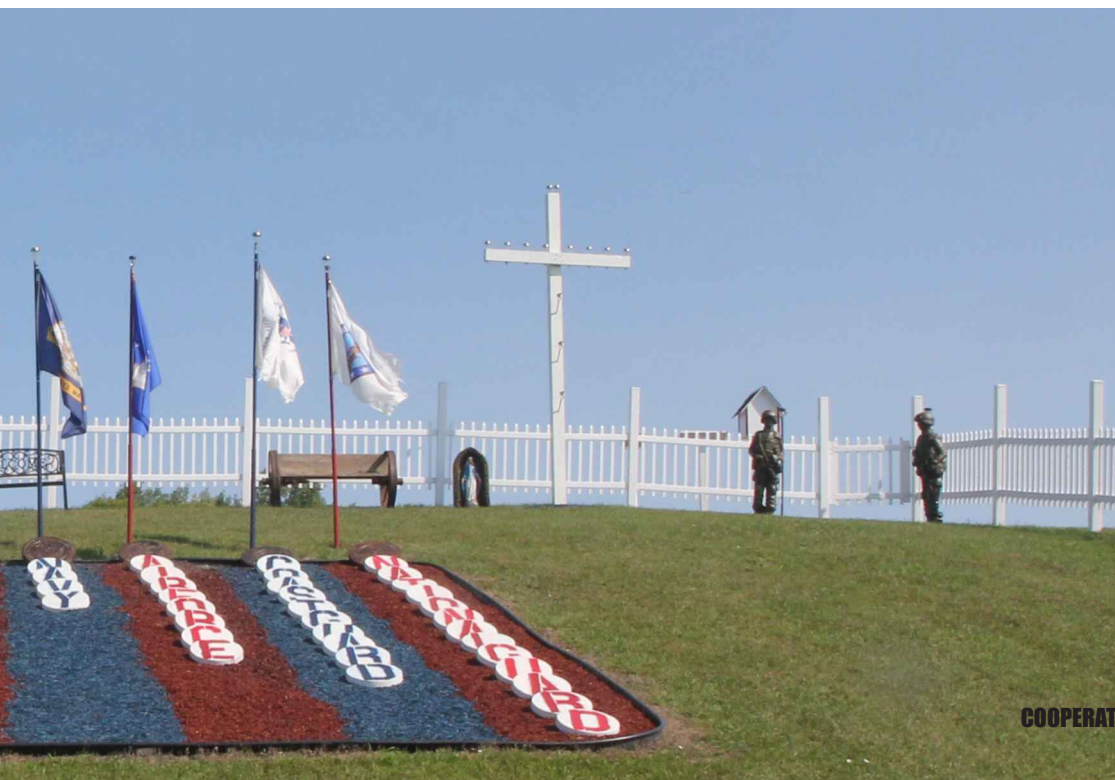
a few miles southeast of the memorial.

Cleveland would come and watch Janisch work. He even accompanied him on trips to pick up statues that help comprise the memorial. Through time spent at the memorial, Cleveland would share memories of a younger brother, James, who was killed in the Vietnam War. (In all 10 men from Roberts County, five from Marshall County and two from Day County were killed during that war.)

Also sharing stories have been members of the Block family who once farmed the land where memorial stands. Six of the eight boys in the family went on to serve in the military in World War II or the Korean era and the husbands of all three girls are veterans. The brother-in-law of one of the daughters was killed in World War II. Janisch has placed memorial markers next to two of the sentinels for both the Block family relative and the younger Cleveland.

For Janisch it has been a labor of love. "The two weeks spent constructing it is nothing compared to the years – some of them 10 years – these veterans gave to our country.

Janisch knows from experience that the hill fills with snow each winter, so he has plans to lay down the fence and protect other pieces of the memorial, but come spring, the tribute to veterans will once again stand proud overlooking Buffalo Lake.



## Korean War Vets Sought

**Korean War veterans** who served in the Korean Theatre of War from June 25, 1950, through Oct. 25, 1954, may be eligible for the Ambassador Peace Medal.

The Ambassador Peace Medal is for the Korean War Veterans who sacrificed for Korea's democracy and freedom and is aimed at expressing the Korean Government's gratitude and respect to them.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is taking the lead in informing veterans of this medal and is planning on recognizing the recipients in January of 2016.

"Recognizing these heroes one era at a time provides us an opportunity to thank and honor the sacrifices they made," said Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Every veteran has a story to tell and along with that military service comes a variety of medals and awards."

Veterans that served during this time frame are encourage to contact their local County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer for an application. Veterans will need a copy of their DD214 form as well.

The names of all South Dakota Korean War vets are being sought by an Oct. 29 deadline for a public recognition in January 2016.

Contact the South Dakota Department of Veteran's Affairs at 877-579-0015.



# Safety in the Field: Rubber Goods

By Courtney J Deinert

Can you put a price on safety? There's a price tag on safety equipment. However, we can't put a number on protecting our employees or uninterrupted electric service. That's exactly what rubber goods do.

Rubbers goods are the personal protective equipment (PPE) used to protect our linemen while they work on energized line. The different rubber goods used include rubber gloves, sleeves, blankets, line hose, cross arm covers, hot sticks/extenos and insulated jumpers.

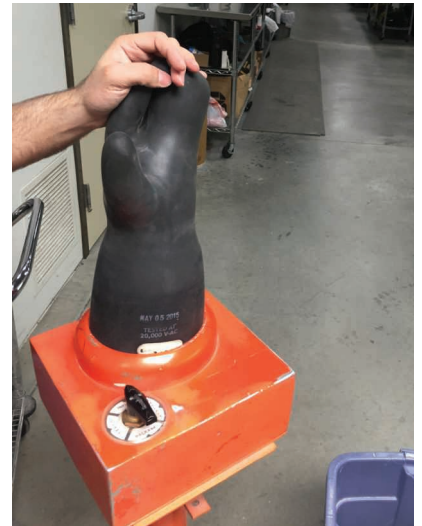
The rubber goods allow linemen to work safely around energized lines and remain unharmed. It allows our crews to maintain line while it's energized or "hot," without needing to inconvenience members with an outage.

Rubber gloves are worn just like mittens, and sleeves cover the arms and shoulders. Line hose and blankets cover parts of live wire that linemen may be working around and could accidentally bump into. The insulated jumpers are used to continue the path of current while insulating the conductor.

When working on energized line, our crews can only be as safe as the rubber goods they use. To ensure rubber goods are in good working condition, routine inspections are required. Our crews inspect the equipment daily, visually looking for

holes, tears, or other imperfections. Rubber gloves are inflated on a daily basis to emphasize any flaws. The two-toned rubber makes problem areas easier to see; if a glove has a worn spot or hole, the inner yellow rubber will show through the outer black rubber when stretched or inflated.

Per OSHA regulations, rubber goods are regularly sent to a testing lab for extra inspection and maintenance. Gloves are sent in after 30 days of use, sleeves are tested quarterly, and blankets, covers, line hose,



**Gloves are inflated to emphasize flaws during visual inspection. Photo credit: Sharshaug Testing Lab**



and jumpers require lab testing after six months.

Central Electric sends our goods to Skarshaug Testing Lab in Ames, IA. The accredited lab has been a family-run business since establishment in 1950 and serves customers in all 50 states.

At the lab, goods are visually inspected and air tested. Goods are inflated and rolled to emphasize any hidden damage. Gloves are also turned inside-out and again inflated for visual inspection. Any goods with cracks, scratches, holes, or worn areas fail the testing and are rejected.

Goods are washed and dried prior to the electric testing. Cleaning removes conductive and compromising dirt and oil. Then, gloves are labeled and stamped with the ID number, test date, test voltage and lab name.

The goods are electrically tested to check for insulation leakage. The gloves are dipped in a solution and electrically tested. Other goods are placed on a grounded surface and an object conducts an electric current through the good. Gloves are then dried and powdered with glove dust. The power absorbs any remaining moisture and makes the gloves easier to slip on and use.

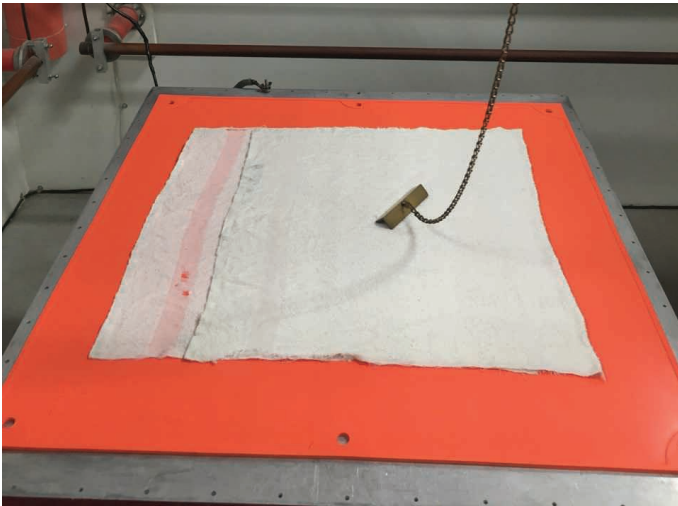
Gloves or goods that failed the visual inspection or electrical testing are dismembered and stamped "Reject." Skarshaug provides replacement goods for the rejected items. Goods are then paired up if needed, packed up and returned to the necessary outpost.

The lifetime of the goods greatly varies—some last one month and others last 10 years. Damage is caused by foreign objects such as staples, hooks, nails, wood shavings or even ozone damage from the sun. Even common items such as insect repellent or Gojo hand cleaner can compromise the rubber. Therefore, although extreme care is taken, the lifetime of the rubber goods cannot be predicted.

Each truck is outfitted with the necessary rubber goods to maintain line. Each bucket truck roughly carries \$7,300 worth of rubber goods. But again, this is a minor price to pay for our crew's safety and reliable electric service.

Operations Manager Brian Bultje says, "We try our best to utilize the goods and keep the line energized as much as possible. But some conditions simply aren't safe to work in." For example, rainy, foggy or dewy weather poses dangerous and conductive conditions when the pole is wet. Extremely windy days are also unsafe to work on energized line. "When the conditions aren't safe, then we either de-energize the line or wait."

In situations where the line cannot be safely worked on while energized, members might experience a planned or unplanned outage. The crews and office staff do our best to inform members when their power will be out. However, certain situations cannot be predicted, and we appreciate our members' understanding and patience during those times.



**Far Left - This is an example of how rubber goods are used on lines, poles, and by linemen. This picture was taken at the Rubber Goods School held annually at Mitchell Technical Institute, hosted by the SD Electric Cooperatives for their employees.**

**Above - During testing, the rubber blanket (orange) is placed on a grounded surface, covered with a conductive blanket (white), and the chain and block deliver an electric current. The blanket is tested for any leakage in insulation. Photo credit: Skarshaug Testing Lab**

**Top-Right - A pole prepped for maintenance during training at the Rubber Goods School at MTI**

**Bottom-Right - During testing, gloves are dipped into a solution, tested with an electric current, and monitored for holes or leakage. Photo credit: Skarshaug Testing Lab**



# Are You Generating Safely?

**W**HEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT DUE TO A STORM, ONE of the first things that comes to mind is the need for a backup generator. But the time for getting a generator and planning for its safe operation is before it is needed.

By  
**Brenda Kleinjan**

**Back-up generators can be valuable assets during a storm, if they're installed properly.**

“We get so many phone calls during a storm so they can run a generator,” said Chad Felderman, manager of member services at Dakota Energy Cooperative in Huron, S.D. “The better time to think about it is before hand, to be proactive and get the system set up so they're ready for when they need it.”

A big concern for cooperatives and other utilities are improperly installed generators.

“A lot of ag producers say they use their welder outlet as a connection point for the generator,” said

Felderman.

“They (the producers) say they flip the switch at the meter. But if they don't flip it, they are back-feeding the system. It's not only unsafe and its illegal in that it's against the wiring code,” said Felderman.










Back-feeding the system is when secondary voltage – electricity produced by the emergency generator – is sent back onto the utility lines. The generator could re-energize downed lines causing dangerous situations for line workers and the public alike.

“That person sticking the generator into their receptacle is putting lot of people at risk,” said Felderman.

To avoid the back-feeding, and to follow current



## TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<p><b>NEVER</b> operate a generator <b>INSIDE</b> your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including <b>GARAGES</b>.</p>		<p>Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a <b>Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)</b>.</p>		<p>Install battery-operated <b>CO ALARMS</b> or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.</p>
	<p>A generator is a <b>TEMPORARY</b> power source and should <b>NEVER</b> be used as a permanent solution.</p>		<p>Use only extension cords that have a <b>THREE-PRONGED</b> plug and are rated for the intended load.</p>		<p>Do <b>NOT OVERLOAD</b> the generator.</p>
	<p><b>NEVER</b> connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a <b>TRANSFER SWITCH</b>. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.</p>		<p>Your home generator should be installed by a <b>QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN</b> and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.</p>		<p>The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least <b>20 FEET</b> from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.</p>

ESFi For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

electrical code, a licensed electrician should install a double-pull, double-throw switches in the meter loops.

“Some of the old farmsteads haven’t touched their farm wiring in 30 years,” said Felderman. “They’re just trying to get power back on, not fully understanding the dangerous situations they’re causing. Once its explained to them, they’re usually willing to spend the money to get their system changed over correctly.”

Larger, whole house or whole farm generators often come with their own automatic throw switches.

“We sell the standby Kohler generators which comes with its own automatic switch,” said Felderman. “It automatically flips so there’s no way it can back-feed.”

The generators like those carried by Dakota Energy typically range in size from 5,500 watts to 80,000 watts. At least one other cooperative, Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., carries the same generator line. Other cooperatives have carried tractor-powered generators as well.

Personnel at cooperatives across the state can be a good resource for information for those looking at adding a generator to their home or farm operation.

But, once a generator is installed and wired properly, the work isn’t over.

“They say to run them once a month,” said Felderman. “The generators we install cycle every two weeks. It helps to ensure the equipment is operating correctly for when you do need it. It’s cheap insurance that you hope to never have to use,” said Felderman.

In addition to having the generator operate briefly at least once a month, other considerations should be made.

“Don’t overload it. It has a nameplate for a reason,” said Felderman.

Overloading the generator could affect the quality of electricity, causing fluctuations that could damage appliances and devices hooked up to it.

“Be careful hooking up smart appliances to the smaller generators. It can cause the more sensitive electronics to burn out,” said Felderman.

And if operating a portable generator, follow operating instructions.

“Operate the portable generators in a well-ventilated area, **NOT** in your garage,” said Felderman.

Felderman’s bottom-line advice for those looking to install a generator?

“Don’t do it yourself. Contact a licensed electrician or your utility; it’s going to be cheaper in the long run.”

# What is Load Management?

Central Electric uses load management to reduce the electric system's total demand during times of peak usage by remotely cycling devices off and on such as water heaters, heat pumps, and irrigation systems. Participation in the program is voluntary.

## What are the advantages of load management?

Participation in the load management program saves your cooperative money by avoiding the need to purchase power at higher costs as well as preventing transformers, substations and transmission lines from being overburdened. Individual members can also save money by taking advantage of rebates and/or special rates offered as incentives by your cooperative.

## What does a load management receiver look like and where is it located?

It's a rectangular-shaped box about the size of a typical book that is usually positioned next to the service panel or near the device being controlled.

## I just moved into my house. Do I need to do anything to sign up for load management?

If the previous home occupants were enrolled in the load management program, you automatically assume participation in the voluntary program. If you are unsure if your home is equipped with load management equipment and you would like to participate, contact Central Electric.

## How do I know if my heat pump is being controlled?

If your air source heat pump is controlled, load management devices will periodically cycle your appliance off and then back on during peak electric demand. It is likely you will not even know when your heat pump is being controlled.

## How long will my heat pump be off?

This varies, but typically no longer than 15 minutes at a time. Then it will cycle back on.

## Why does my heat pump turn off automatically?

If your heat pump turns off automatically, it is likely that you are participating in the voluntary load management program. When electric demand is the highest, it costs more to generate and deliver power to your home; therefore, during this high demand, you may experience brief, intermittent periods of operation when the load management device cycles your heat pump off and on.

## How do I know that I don't have mechanical problems with my heat pump?

Those participating in the load management program will find a load control receiver connected to the heat pump. The load management receiver will cycle the appliance on and off for 15 minute periods during times of peak energy use. If you

have such a device, realize that it's perfectly normal for your heat pump to cycle off and then turn on again. However, if the thermostat is calling for cooling and the unit does not restart after 30 minutes, call Central Electric to have one of our certified technicians inspect the unit.

## Is load management harmful to my heat pump or air conditioner?

Load management does not harm your home's cooling equipment since it works similar to a thermostat.

## What can I do to keep my heat pump in good working order?

Before any maintenance is done, make sure the electric power is shut off to the device at the circuit breaker. You should keep the outside unit clean from debris such as dirt, leaves and grass clippings. Also, keep the indoor fan clean and change filters regularly. Consult the owner's manual or your HVAC professional for the proper way to clean the coils on your heat pump system.

## Do you control loads during the winter season?

Yes, but only for water heaters. We do not control heat pumps during the winter.

## Should I use a setback thermostat?

Setback thermostats can reduce the cost of heating or cooling your home. However, setback thermostats do not always work well with equipment that is connected to the load management program.

## Without making a large financial investment, what can I do in my home to help save energy and money?

There are many ways to save money and energy in your home without a great deal of expense. Applying caulk around windows and weather stripping to doors, drawing the blinds on the sunny side of the house, using CFL lighting and adding insulation to the attic are cost-effective ways to reduce your energy bill. Visit "StopEnergyLeaks.com" for more information.



Example of a load management box



# Fall Super Sale

Betts Road Service Center - 25487 403rd Ave - Mitchell

Friday, November 13th from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday November 14th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Featuring the Season's Best Prices!



- GE & LG Full line of appliances
- Speed Queen Washer & Dryers
- Electric Grills
- Kohler Generators
- Bryant & Fujitsu Heat Pump Systems

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**Residential Wiring - Agricultural Buildings**  
**Grain Handling Systems - Lighting**  
**Trenching Equipment - Electric Heating Systems**

Services Available for both Members & Non Members

**Free Estimates**  
**24 Hour Service**  
**Licensed & Bonded**  
**Financing Available**  
**Workmanship Guaranteed**



**605-996-7516**  
**1-800-477-2892**  
**www.centralec.coop**  
**25487 403rd Ave**  
**Mitchell SD 57301**

## Regional Dateline

**October 17-January 3**  
2015 Pheasant Hunting Season  
Opens Statewide, Pierre, SD  
605-223-7660

**October 23-24**  
Haunted Forest, Storybook  
Land and Wylie Park  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015  
prf@aberdeen.sd.us

**October 23-24**  
Halloween Hike, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

**October 23-25**  
ZooBoo, 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

**October 23-25**  
Autumn Festival, An Arts and  
Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD  
402-331-2889

**October 24**  
ZOO BOO, 2 to 6 p.m.  
Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

**October 25**  
Trick or Treat Trails  
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Pierre, SD, 605-773-2885

**October 30-31**  
Deadweird, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Main Street, Deadwood, SD  
605-578-1876

**October 31**  
11th Annual Holiday Shopping  
Extravaganza, 10 a.m. to  
4 p.m., Davison County  
Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD  
Contact Cindy Foster at  
605-996-8563



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEARTLAND COUNTRY CORN MAZE

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

## Events of Special Note

**October 24**  
Ducks Unlimited Banquet  
and Auction, Social 6 p.m.  
Banquet 7 p.m., Auction 8 p.m.  
Jerauld Co. 4-H Building  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Tom Mebuis at 605-539-1188

**October 30-31**  
Haunted Heartland Country  
Corn Maze, Harrisburg, SD  
heartlandcountrycornmaze.com

**November 6**  
Jon Crane Art Show  
Rehfeld's, Sioux Falls, SD  
audra@rehfeldsonline.com

**November 6-7**  
Northern State University  
Culturefest and Wacipi  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-3011

**November 7**  
77th Annual Lutefisk Feed,  
5 to 8 p.m., Community Hall  
Summit, SD, 605-881-4377

**November 7**  
TobyMac, 7 to 11:45 p.m.  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

**November 7-8**  
17th Annual Gun Show  
Redfield, SD, 605-472-4550

**November 14**  
Merchants and Crafters 18th  
Annual Holiday Open House  
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD  
605-698-7425

**November 14**  
Hairball, 8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

**November 14**  
RSVP Vendor & Craft Show  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., James Valley  
Community Center  
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8441

**November 20-21**  
Holiday Arts Christmas Craft  
Show, Masonic Temple  
Mitchell, SD, Contact Nancy  
VanOverschelde at  
605-248-2526 or email  
nanvan@santel.net

**November 21-22**  
37th Annual Winterfest  
Civic Arena, Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-7081

**November 24-December 26**  
Christmas at the Capitol  
8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pierre, SD  
605-773-3178

**November 27**  
Shawn Cable and Erik Apland  
Concert, Redlin Art Center  
Watertown, SD, 605-882-3877

**November 27-28 and  
December 12, 19, 20 and 23**  
1880 Train Holiday Express  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

**November 28**  
Greater Madison Area Show  
and Sell, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Madison, SD, 605-256-2454

**November 28**  
Holiday Celebration and  
Winter Market, 1 to 6 p.m.  
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

**November 28**  
Williams and Ree  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

**November 28-29**  
Holidazed and Confused  
Comedy Show, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-2500