



# TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**April 2021**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## Thank a Lineworker on April 12



If you were asked to associate an image or a person with T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, we bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our communities receive uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers sometimes must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Our Operations

Department provides ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your call and questions. Our information technology (IT) manager monitors our system to help safeguard sensitive data and ensures that the lineworkers have technical support when needed. And these are just a few of the people who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our communities.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and recognition that comes their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and anytime you see a lineworker, we hope you’ll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

### Nominating Committee Members for August Annual Meeting

At your August 2021 annual meeting, directors will be elected from the following counties:

**Iowa Poweshiek Tama**

If you are a Co-op member and you know of a member from any of these counties whom you would like to serve on the nominating committee which will select director candidates, contact any present director or the cooperative office and give that member’s name before **May 3, 2021**.

#### T.I.P. Rural Electric

**Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays.....641-522-9221**  
**or Toll Free..... 800-934-7976**  
**After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223**  
**or Toll Free ..... 800-934-7976**

website: [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com)

## Know What's Below: Steps for Safe Digging

Spring has arrived and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects - especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want - trust us! T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative reminds all members who are planning a digging project to submit a request online by visiting [www.iowaonecall.com](http://www.iowaonecall.com) or call 811 at least three business days before you start. Here's how the process works:

After you submit your request online or call 811, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. Your utilities will be located within 48 hours. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but your community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to contact Iowa One Call first and know what's below.



**Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.**

## Utility Poles are NOT Bulletin Boards



Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs-as well as the signs themselves-pose dangers to T.I.P. line crews who must climb poles.

The safety of our line crews is of utmost concern for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. Your line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making line workers vulnerable to electrocution.

Line workers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least ten feet away from utility poles.

When we find a satellite dish, sign or other object attached to our poles, we will be notifying you to remove it in a timely manner.



### Administrative Professionals Day April 21



**Pictured above back row left to right: Sallie Ditzler, Customer Service Representative, Lee Rozmus, Administrative Assistant, and Janet Faas, Staff Assistant/Communications. Front row left to right: Becca Coover, Operations Assistant and Breanna McIlrath, Office and Billing Supervisor.**

The ladies pictured above all play an important role to ensure that T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative runs smoothly every day.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

### Employees and Their Families Help Distribute Food



On February 25, T.I.P. employees and some of their families donated their time to help distribute food boxes and milk.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative partnered with the Grinnell Food Coalition who provided 30 pound food boxes containing fresh produce - fruit and vegetables, dairy products - cheese and yogurt, meat products and a gallon of milk while T.I.P. provided the location and manpower to distribute the food.

We appreciate the opportunity to help those in our community.

### T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to Pay \$347,143.00 in Property Taxes

The following is the breakdown, by county, of the property taxes to be paid by your REC for 2020-21:

Benton County	\$ 1,128.00
Iowa County	43,066.00
Jefferson County	102.00
Johnson County	365.00
Keokuk County	40,001.00
Mahaska County	825.00
Poweshiek County	38,681.00
Tama County	23,627.00
Wapello County	32.00
Washington County	42.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 147,869.00</b>

In addition to these property taxes, CIPCO, our power supplier, incurred property taxes which were passed on to your cooperative to pay amounting to \$199,274.00 in the ten counties we serve.

**UP, UP AND AWAY!**

It's time to go out and play!

Remember, don't fly a kite, drone or remote-control toy or plane near a power line or substation. It could get tangled in the power line or other electrical equipment.

If this happens, leave it alone and tell an adult to call your electric utility for help.

**Safe Electricity.org**

## Watch Cooperative Property when Burning Ditches

It is that time of the year again when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.



This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems as “in” or “out” of control fire is sometimes allowed to burn around your cooperative poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to cooperative property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any person involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to cooperative property.

To avoid damage to cooperative property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.

## New Rebates for 2021

In addition to our current rebates, the following are new rebates being offered in 2021:

### Residential

- **Water Heater - \$100 Go Electric Bonus when replacing an LP or Natural Gas water heater with electric.**
- **Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump - \$400 per ton (Standard units are \$200 per ton plus a possible \$250 Energy Star Bonus)**

### Agriculture

- **Horticulture LED Lighting - \$10-\$40 (8-100W)**

### Commercial

- **Electric Fork Lift - \$1,000 for a Class 1 and Class 2**
- **Electric Hand Truck - up to \$350 for Class 3**

## Chapman Metering Testing Meters this Spring

We will again have Chapman Metering testing our meters on a portion of our system this spring. This year they will be working on our Madison substation. You will be seeing their vehicle in these areas with our “Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative” sign on the side.

As part of our reliability plan, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will have 10% of our meters tested annually. If you have any questions, please call our office.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater’s temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

### NOTICE:

**The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, April 8th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.**

**Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on Rapid Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.**

### Non-Discrimination Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

**TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.**

