



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**May 2021**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## Collection Charge To Raise

Effective July 1, 2021, the fee to make a trip out to your service to post it for an unpaid electric bill is raising to \$85.00.

### How do you avoid paying an \$85.00 collection charge?

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is asking that if you can't pay your bill by the due date, please call us at 800-934-7976 to make arrangements. We will be glad to work with you, but it is very important that you call us during normal working hours which are 7:30 am - 4:00 pm weekdays.

If your bill is not paid by the 1st of each month, we will send a reminder notice at the beginning of the month. It states that you have until the 17th of the current month to pay the bill or to make arrangements to pay it. **It is very important that you respond to this reminder.**

1. If we do not hear from you, a service order will be made. We will try to call you if we have a phone number for the account, but it is important to remember that we cannot leave a message concerning your bill but we do leave messages asking you to return our call.
2. If you fail to either pay the bill or call our office to make arrangements to pay, we will make a trip out to your service to leave a posting notice on your door or meter to have it paid within 2 days, and a collection charge of \$85.00 will be added to your next bill. After the 2 days, the service will be up for disconnection.
3. If a service is disconnected, an \$85.00 reconnection fee will be applied. We may also require an additional deposit.



## 2021 Shine the Light Contest Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are launching a new contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. The Shine the Light contest, sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, will accept nominations and select three winners who will each receive a \$1,500 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

Member-owners and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, you're a co-op member-owner and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a T.I.P. REC member-owner. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced during the Iowa State Fair in August. In addition to the \$1,500 donation, each winner will be featured in the September issue of Living with Energy in Iowa magazine.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) to review the contest rules. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.



**Notice: Your REC office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**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)

### Advance Notice of Member's Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the members, August 28, 2021, the following information is provided.

#### Membership

The Association shall have no capital stock, but membership in the Association shall be evidenced by a certificate of membership. The issuing price of membership in the Association shall be \$5, and no certificate of membership in the Association shall be issued until the issuing price for the membership shall have been paid in full.

#### Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by and from the members to serve for a period of three years or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Association who is not a member receiving electric service to his or her principle place of residence from the Association or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Association, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office.

A member shall not become or remain eligible for the office of director if such person or his or her spouse has a relative as hereinafter defined working full time for the Cooperative. A relative for this purpose shall be defined as such members' parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, or first cousins and in addition any spouse of any of the foregoing persons.

#### Nominations

The nominees for the position of Director shall be named by a nominating committee, which nominating committee shall consist of two persons from each of three geographical areas. Said committee shall be named by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. Said committee shall select two nominees from each geographical area and the persons thus selected shall be reported to the Annual Meeting. The names shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting so that printed ballots can be prepared.

Members of the Cooperative shall be reminded of

their opportunity to suggest persons to the Board for said nominating committee in the newsletter of the Cooperative in April prior to the Annual Meeting. In the June newsletter members shall be reminded of their opportunity to suggest nominees to said nominating committee as candidates for the position of director. No nominations shall be received from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

### Certificate of Safety Achievement



**Pictured above left to right: Matt Pociask, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives Job Training /Safety Instructor, Dean Huls, General Manager and Scott Long, Operations Manager.**

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative recognizes that the safety of all cooperative employees is of paramount importance to the success and sustainability of the cooperative. We hold safety as an essential organizational value. The need to complete a job efficiently should never take priority over the need to perform it safely.

T.I.P. REC supports establishing a strong safety culture and that is why we participate in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP).

Congratulations to all our employees for receiving the Certificate of Safety Achievement!



## SPRING INTO SAFETY WITH NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Every day, we rely on electricity to power our homes and offices. However, it is important to always be safe around electric appliances, equipment, and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it's a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss.

Here are some safety tips:

### Indoors:

- Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- Remember extension cords are intended to be temporary; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- Keep your home's electrical system in good repair. Contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have sparks, non-functioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

### Outdoors:

- Never touch downed power lines!
- Always call your local utility or 911 if you see lines down.
- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Know what's below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the National One Call Center, to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
- Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.

## Co-op Employees Train to Save Lives

Safety is top priority at T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. While we focus on accident prevention year round, it is also important for T.I.P. employees to learn how to respond in a medical emergency.

This spring, our employees were trained to properly administer CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), use an AED (automated external defibrillator), perform first aid and protect themselves from Bloodborne Pathogens. After watching the training videos, employees were tested to ensure they retained the information.

With over 1,700 miles of power lines to maintain, T.I.P. crews come across members and the general public on a daily basis. You never know when the need for CPR and first aid will arise. From finding an unresponsive driver of a vehicle on the side of the road, a member in their own yard, or a colleague collapsing in an office, electric co-op employees from across the nation have been called upon to perform CPR and use an AED.

Performing CPR right away and using an AED within a few minutes offer the best chances of saving a life. Your cooperative has AEDs in the office and in some of the trucks.

Co-op employees also learned how to administer first aid until emergency medical providers arrive. This included training on how to assist someone who is choking, or requires bandaging of a wound, as well as other medical situations.



**Pictured left front is Kendall Bunn, Apprentice Lineman, and in back Joe Kriegel, Brooklyn Line Foreman.**



**Customer Service Representative, Sallie Ditzler is pictured to the left practicing adult CPR.**

## Considering a New Home or Apartment? Check Out Electrical Concerns Too



Whether you are renting or buying, the process of looking for a house, condo or apartment can be overwhelming, especially for your people moving out on their own or new families ready to relocate to larger places. Along with looking for a good value, the right neighborhood

or curb appeal, it's also a good idea to look for signs of potential electrical trouble before making a home buying or renting decision.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are present in an estimated average of 47,000 home structure fires per year in the United States, which result in 430 deaths, 1,280 injuries, and \$1.5 billion in property damage.

Aside from having a professional electrical inspection completed, look for the following warning signs of larger electrical safety hazards before signing on the dotted line:

1. Outlets and light switches that are warm to the touch.
2. Outlets that are loose, scorched or discolored.
3. Wall or light switches that cause shocks upon contact.
4. Strange smells (such as something burning or overheating).
5. Smoke or sparks.
6. Exposed wires.
7. Lack of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) on certain outlets (those near a water source or that could get wet).
8. Lack of AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters); these help to prevent fires and are required in new builds.
9. Faulty appliances.
10. Evidence of frequent blown fuses or circuit breakers.
11. Missing or broken wall plates.

Another good house-hunting practice is to take note if there are too few outlets to accommodate your needs - for electronics, appliances, and other items that will increase the electrical load. If you need to use extension cords and large outlet strips on a regular basis, you risk overloading your electrical system and creating an electrical hazard.

If you are buying a home, a reputable home inspector should note electrical wiring or other electrical deficiencies and code violations. Make sure electrical items are addressed by a qualified electrician before you call your new place home. If you already own your home and detect electrical issues, call a reputable electrician so that problems can be addressed immediately.

Both renters and homeowners should test all GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working and keep an eye out for other electrical hazards.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



We are thankful for the brave men and women who selflessly gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service allows us.

Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.

### 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.

### NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, May 13th 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.