



BENCO Electric Cooperative Link

AUGUST 2023

Back to School

Back-to-school month can be stressful for students, parents and teachers. Gathering, organizing and packing all the necessities for the year is not ideal when trying to enjoy your last moments of sunshine and fun. As your children get ready for the upcoming school year, it's always a good idea to revisit the basics of electrical safety. Here are five electrical safety tips that will help give you and your student a little peace of mind:



OUTLET TIP

Keep your student safe from potential fire hazards by checking if outlets are loose, are missing a wall plate, or become too hot to touch when something is plugged in.



EXTENSION CORD TIP

Dorm rooms or small apartments may not have enough outlets for students to plug in all their gadgets or devices, but extension cords are only meant for temporary use. If an extension cord is needed in the dorm, urge your college-aged kids to unplug it when they are done. Consider purchasing a power-strip with an overcurrent protector – it's the perfect dorm-warming gift!



LIGHT BULB TIP

LED bulbs use 75% less energy than traditional bulbs. If your bright student needs to replace a light bulb and they can't find the required wattage needed, always encourage them to choose an LED bulb under 60 watts – and remind them to flip the switch OFF before attempting a replacement.



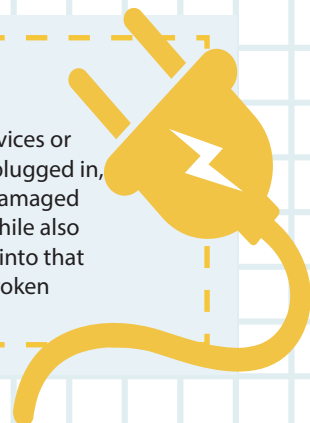
CHARGING CORD TIP

Did you know not all charging cords are made the same? It's tempting to purchase cheaper charging cords for a phone or gaming device, but lower prices often mean lower quality and a higher chance of malfunction. Only buy cords certified by your device's manufacturer to avoid damage to the charging port or device itself.



DAMAGED ELECTRONICS TIP

Damaged electronics like broken gaming devices or worn-out kitchen appliances should not be plugged in, so don't send them off with your students! Damaged electronics can shock or electrocute them, while also ruining other cords and electronics plugged into that outlet. Don't risk it. Either repair or replace broken electronics.



CEO CORNER

A quick storm tore through the North Mankato area of our service territory at the end of July. Approximately 600 - 700 members were without power for about four hours.



18 poles were snapped in half and many miles of line were down. Crews spent the next day repairing line and re-setting poles.



We appreciate your patience as our crews worked to safely restore power and make necessary repairs. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Cooperatively yours,



FROM THE BOARD

June 29, 2023
Brad Leiding Presided

The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 25, 2023 board meeting.

Abby provided an update on the GRIP grant submission.

Tim reported pole testing is complete for 2023. About 4,000 poles were tested and 150 were rejected.

Duane, Blake and Brad gave the CTV report. The CTV Annual Meeting was held on June 26.

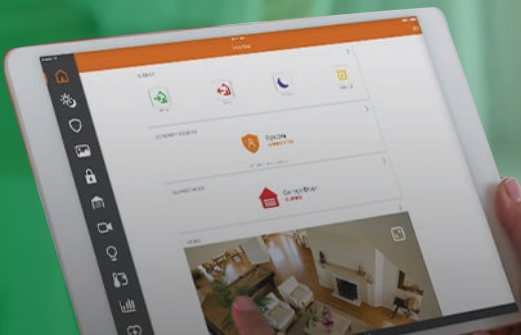
Directors attending the CFC Forum reported.

The board approved holding the July, August and September board meetings at the Faribault County Outpost.

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PCA UPDATE

ACTUAL PCA FOR JULY

\$0.0348

ESTIMATED PCA FOR AUGUST

\$0.0424

ESTIMATED PCA FOR SEPTEMBER

\$0.0352

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is due to changes in the monthly wholesale rate from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE).

TEMPORARY LINEWORKERS JOIN BENCO FOR SUMMER SEASON



Sam Hoffman

Sam Hoffman and Charlie Otteson joined Benco Electric Cooperative in May to provide additional help to the Engineering and Operations department over the busy, summer season.

Sam is from Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Following high school graduation from Park High School, he attended Dakota County Technical School in Rosemount, MN where he completed the nine-month Lineworker Program. About Benco, Sam says, "I like learning something new each day." Sam enjoys spending his free time fishing.



Charlie Otteson

Charlie Otteson, a graduate of New Prague High School, attended Dakota County Technical School in Rosemount, MN where he completed the nine-month Lineworker Program. Charlie says while at Benco he enjoyed the variety of work that was done each day and that everyday there is a different task. In his spare time, Charlie enjoys golfing and hanging out with friends during the summer.

Thank you, Sam and Charlie, for your dedication to the members of Benco Electric Cooperative!

WHERE, OH WHERE?

The following is a list of former Benco members who have unclaimed capital credit checks or credit balances on their inactive account. Please contact Angie at 387-7963 with any information on locating the former Benco members.

M

Tina K. Mead, Mankato
Edwin G. Meador, Ankeny, IA
Tina M. Medlin, Pemberton
Timothy L. Meek, Onalaska, WI
Robert A. Mees, Mankato
Cheryl Meger, Albert Lea

Jon L. Mehlhoff, Eagle Lake
Ann M. Mehlretter, Mankato
Tom Meidl, Cloquet
Andrew J. Meier, Waterville
Arlene M. Meier, St. Peter
Roger Meier, Mankato
Mary B. Meiner, Mankato
Katy L. Meister, North Mankato
Robert A. Meister, Mapleton
Christopher C. Meixell, Eagle Lake
John Meixner, Mankato
Prakash Melachuri, Minneapolis
Bruce H. Melander, Andover
Katherine D. Melarvie, Mankato
Ron L. Melby, Redwood Falls
Todd Melby, St. Peter

Margaret E. Melcher, Walters
Eric Melhorn, Mankato
Karen L. Melinsky, Truman
Harley Meliza, Blue Earth
James A. Mellies, Stewart
Jessica L. Mellies, Chanhassen
Mark Mellum, Mankato
Memorial Community Well, Mankato
Wendy Mende, Madison Lake
Neil D. Mendonca, Mankato
Lawrence Menezes, Mankato
Chris E. Menk, Pelican Rapids
Steven A. Menk, St. Paul
Mark Menke, Mankato
Barb J. Menne, St. Clair
Barb J. Menne, Mankato



Touchstone Energy®

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Mankato, MN 56002-0008

what's cooking?

Receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill if your recipe appears in the newsletter.



This newsletter is published monthly by BENCO Electric Cooperative.

Office Hours: Mon -Fri - 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626

Outages/After Hours:
387-7964 or 1-888-792-3626

Kathy Gerber - Member Services Manager
Chelsea Gerbo - Editor

RASPBERRY CHOCOLATE MINI MUFFINS

From the Kitchen of: Wendy Nickel

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. baking cocoa
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 4 tsp. seedless raspberry jam
- 2 tbsp. chopped, sliced almonds
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. coarse sugar

Directions:

Dissolve cocoa in water; let stand until cool. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Combine flour and baking powder; add to creamed mixture alternately with cocoa mixture. Fill paper-lined mini muffin cups half full. Drop 1/4 tsp. of jam into the center of each; cover with two tsp. batter. Sprinkle with almonds and sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 -12 minutes. Cool for five minutes before removing from pans to a wire rack. Serve warm.



ENTER TO WIN. SEND YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO:

BENCO Electric Cooperative, Attn: Chelsea, PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002

Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held the last Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to contact directors with items of interest in advance of the meeting or wish to attend. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors:

Brad Leiding - President - District 3
Marilyn Lynch - Vice President - District 5
Scott Johnson - Secretary - District 9
Terry Genelin - Treasurer - District 1
Don Westphal - District 2
John Wells - District 4 - MREA Director
Blake Meshke - District 6
Gary Stenzel - District 7 - GRE Director
Duane Ehrich - District 8
Dave Sunderman - CEO
Christopher M. Roe - Attorney