



# Annual Member Meetings announced

Official notice of the session of the 2022 Annual Member Meeting of Garkane Energy Cooperative will be held Tuesday, April 26 at Koosharem Elementary School, Wednesday, April 27 at Escalante High School, and Thursday April 28 at El Capitan High School in Colorado City. The regular business meeting session will be held at 6:30 p.m., with a free dinner being provided at 5:30 p.m. The main order of business will be to announce the director voting results, and to provide the cooperative annual report for 2021.

The candidates running for election are Ron Cazier in District 1, Reed Munson and Lenza Wilson in District 4, William Hammon in District 9, and Guy Timpson in District 11. According to the bylaws, if only one director files a nomination petition, that applicant will automatically fill the role as Director and will fill the three year term. (249100)

# Agenda

5:30 - 6:30 - FREE Dinner 6:30 - 7:30 Business Meeting, annual operations report, announcement of director elections.



**Inside HIGHLIGHTS This Quarter** 



Board of Director Elections - Pg. 4 -



Garkane Annual Report - Pg. 10-11 -



# **GET PAID TO READ THE PAPER**



# Win A \$25 CREDIT

We have inserted eight randomly selected Garkane Account Numbers in the text of various articles in this month's edition. If you find your account number, call Garkane toll-free at 1-800-747-5403 and we'll credit \$25.00 to your account as a lucky winner! Just one more reason to read HIGHLIGHTS.

# There are 8 hidden account numbers located in the text of the newsletter, find your # and win!

| Cale                | ndar   | GARKANE<br>published of<br>April, July, a                         |
|---------------------|--|---|
| April 22, 2022      | <b>Director Elections</b><br>Ballots Due                   | Garkane En<br>P.O. Box 46<br>Loa, Utah 8                          |
| April, 26 2022      | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Loa, UT                            | 1-800-747-54  |
| April 26,27,28 2022 | Annual Meetings<br>Koosharem, Escalante,<br>Colorado City, | As the office<br>the Coopera<br>of <b>this new</b><br>municate to |
| May 23, 2022        | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Hatch, UT                          | mation cone<br>tric coopera                                       |
| May 30, 2022        | <b>Memorial Day</b><br>Offices Closed                      | GENERAL   |
| June 27, 2022       | Board Meeting  | Dan McClen  |
| July 4, 2022        | Hatch, UT<br>Independence Day<br>office closed             | HIGHLIGH<br>Neal R. Brow  |

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MANAGER/CEO ndon

HTS wn, Editor **Garkane Energy Cooperative**, Inc. **VOLUME 65 - NO. 2** 

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

LaDon Torgersen - Koosharem, Antimony (435) 638-7531 Chad Williams - Teasdale, Loa (435) 425-3213 Tracy Potter - Torrey, Bicknell (435) 425-3128 Reed Munson-Escalante, Boulder (435) 826-4422 Terry Griffiths-Orderville, Glendale (435) 616-1034 George Thompson - Cannonville, Tropic, Hatch (435) 679-8806 Andy Gant- Kanab (Ranchos) (435) 689-0348 Rodney Ence-Duck Creek Village (435) 682-2526 William Hammon -Centennial Park, Big Water, Cane Beds (435) 467-1886 Ray Clark-Kanab City Limits (435) 689-0174 Guy Timpson - Colorado City, Hildale (435) 467-2113





### Submit a photo to the Garkane calendar contest every month in 2022 for a chance to win. Amateurs and professionals wanted Email <u>neal.brown@garkane</u> with your best shots throughout the year for a chance

Email **<u>meal.brown@garkane</u>** with your best shots throughout the year for a chance to win some prizes and be featured in the year-end Garkane Country calendar. Follow us on Facebook to see the winners each month. We are looking for photos that match the months and seasons, so keep that in mind when submitting. We would like them to be in Garkane's service territory.













# **District 4**

### **Board Candidate Profiles**

In alphabetical order by last name: Reed Munson - Lenza Wilson



**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Spring - 2022

#### Reed Munson, Escalante UT



**Family:** My name is Reed L. Munson, I live in Escalante. I'm married, have 10 children, and enjoy being acquainted with the citizens of our area. I've lived here most of my life, born and raised here.

**Occupation:** I have been a general contractor since 1984,

working on commercial and residential projects mostly in Southwest Utah. I also run the Do It Best hardware store in Escalante. This has given me an opportunity to personally meet most of you. I have tried to strengthen our communities through resources, and make this area a better place to live.

#### **Other Boards, Civic Service:**

I have served on the Garkane board for several years, working in the coop to help make informed, necessary, and practical decisions in the best interest of the membership. We face some crucial decisions in trying to keep the lights on and still meet your needs. Our service area encompasses 5 national parks, several state parks, and a gorgeous area for a backyard. We want to preserve our lifestyle and environment.

#### Strengths I would bring to the board:

We have a great management team and workforce, I feel that our goal as a board should be to make sure they have the means to do their job safely, and effectively. That requires needed funding, careful planning, working with communities and government to stay up with demands and requirements.

#### Positions on issues facing Garkane:

We face some big decisions in the near future, there will be needed changes with our source of generation, handling growth, and providing affordable power, and blending it all with changes in our economy. We live in an exciting time, I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you and help find solutions to your problems. I hope you will continue to take an interest in your electric coop, show your support, and if there are areas you feel we could improve, let us know.

#### Lenza Wilson, Escalante UT



**Family:** No spouse or children yet.

**Occupation:** 

I own and operate an electrical contracting business in Escalante.

**Previous work experience:** Plant electrician at Utah Forest

Products sawmill in Escalante, Power plant operator for Nevada Power Co.

**Other boards, civic service, church service:** Mayor of Escalante 1998-2000, 2002-2006. Escalante City Council 1996-1998, 2019 to present.

#### **Education:**

Graduated Escalante High School 1991 Graduated University of Utah, Political Science major, 2002

#### What specific strengths would you bring to Garkane's Board of Directors:

I have worked closely with Garkane employees for many years and understand the company facilities intimately. I have studied power generation, power lines and substations as a hobby for decades. I would especially like to work with the engineering department to continue providing increased system reliability for the future.

#### Describe your position on a specific issue facing Garkane:

I believe additional communities should be added to the Garkane service area whenever those opportunities present themselves and it is viable financially. There are portions of Garfield and Piute Counties that are currently served by other power companies. They have less reliable service, higher rates and no local company representation. I would like to bring these communities into the Garkane system which would also benefit our existing customers through additional transmission corridors and economies of scale.

Ballots have been mailed to all residents in District 4 including Boulder and Escalante. If you have not received a ballot, and have an electric account in your name in this district, call 800-747-5403 and we will mail you a ballot. We have provided a postage paid return envelope. Ballots are due April 22, 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS Spring - 2022





"Every Garkane member should sign up for this program." -Tracy Potter Torrey, UT

Giving back to the community is a big part of what Garkane Energy Cooperative is all about, which is why we participate in Operation Round-up.

The program "rounds-up" a members bill to the nearest dollar and 100% of the funds are donated to local community activities in our service area. All funds stay in the community to benefit your friends and (702204)neighbors who may be in need.

This may seem like small change, but multiplied over 15,000 members, it adds up and the co-op can make a huge difference. Your small change, together with other members will



"Operation Round-up was able to donate money to the Wayne High School football team when it was raising funds for a new scoreboard." round-up your bill to the next dollar \$0.54 51.00 to help another "It makes real cents"



"Garkane's Operation Round-up donation allowed us to add five extra EMT's, so we have all the help and resources we need." -Nancy Porter, Escalante EMT

Sign up online www.garkaneenergy.com or call 800-747-5403



### Outgoing Garkane employees receive recognition award from IPSA





Casey Glover holding an IPSA recognition award after 28 years with Garkane

Garkane

Tom Barton recognized for his contribution to the safety program at

Recently retired Garkane employees Casey Glover and Tom Barton received recognition from the Intermountain Power Superintendent Association (IPSA). IPSA is the organization that certifies Garkane's apprenticeship training program, provides assistance with mutual aid agreements, safety committee coordination, hot-line school and a rodeo skills competition.

Casey was an integral member of the IPSA board, before recently retiring from Garkane Energy.

Casey Glover worked for Garkane for 28 years in many different roles, with his last position working as Operations Superintendent. His leadership had a great impact on the whole organization and he will be missed.

Tom Barton (165101) also received recognition as Garkane's Safety manager before retiring in the fall of 2021. "Both Tom and Casey were instrumental in contributing to the safety culture of Garkane and the critical role it plays at Garkane in keeping our employees safe and our members safe." Said Garkane CEO Dan McClendon

## Garkane directors receive Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate



George Thompson (center) District 6 Director-Tropic, UT, pictured with CEO Dan McClendon (left) and Board President William Hammon (right)

Director George Thompson of Tropic and Director Ray Clark of Kanab recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Ray Clark (left) District 10 Director-Kanab, UT, pictured with Garkane Member Service & Marketing Director. Neal Brown

#### (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Garkane Energy has a commitment to work through NRECA and the Utah Rural Electric Association (URECA) to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer owners

The CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- **Director Duties & Liabilities**
- Understanding the Electric Business
- **Board Operations and Process** •
- Strategic Planning
- **Financial Decision Making**

Garkane's Board of Directors seek to be educated and informed on all energy related issues.

#### Material and supply delays

Due to ongoing delays from suppliers, materials our dealing with new construction can be greatly delayed, anywhere from 6-12 months.

#### **Changes to New Construction** and **Net Metering Fees**

Due to increased costs, changes have been made to the New **Construction and Net-Meter fee** process. Starting May 1st, the Engineering Deposit will move to \$390 to cover the true cost of service. The net meter nonrefundable deposit is \$240, and the Net Metering Commission fee is \$470.



# 7

# If you see something, say something

It's human nature for most people who see something that's broken, to help fix it, or if you break something, to want to help fix it. In the case of electricity, transformers, poles, or wires, it is especially important to do the exact opposite. We had a scary situation a few months ago when a vehicle hit one of our green transformers in a way that didn't trip the power to the box. so the wires were live with 7200 volts of electricity. Very scary!!! This happened at night, and if the driver would have tried to put the transformer box back, it could have proved deadly.

something, it's critical you call Garkane Energy at 800-747-5403 or if its an emergency, call 911. We will be able to access the situation, clear the area, and ensure it is safe. If your vehicle caused the accident, stay inside until help arrives.

It's important to remind your kids and grand kids of the same safety concerns. If they break something by accident, or come across something, their first response should be to call someone. The dangers of electricity are real, especially if something doesn't seem quite right. That's when we encourage you to make the call.

If you see something, or break

# We are accepting bids for grazing rights on Garkane's property in Kings Pasture, near Boulder, UT.





These Garkane transformers were hit by vehicles, knocking them off their pedestals, leaving deadly high voltage lines exposed. (352100) Luckily no one was hurt in either incident, but could've been deadly.

**BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS!!!** If you come across something that

doesn't look right, call Garkane energy (800-747-5403) or 911 and stay away.

Grazing Rights on 128 acres near the Garkane Boulder hydro plant on Kings Pasture.

- Limited to 24 pairs of cattle.
- Leasee is responsible to build fences around pasture, supplies provided by Garkane.
- Put-in date: June 1
- Exit date: October 15
- 5 year term lease.
- Must be a Garkane Energy member.
- Cannot be sub-leased
- Please reach out to <u>neal.brown@garkane</u> for more details.

# Submit A Bid

Submit in a sealed envelope with "King Pasture Bid" Clearly written on the outside to:

Garkane Energy Attn: Marcus Lewis PO Box 465, Loa, UT 84747

Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 13th, 2022. Garkane reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

HIGHLIGHTS

Spring - 2022



## New COOL program like the HEAT program helps with power bills

For a limited time the Five County Association of Governments HEAT Program is offering financial assistance with spring and summer utility bills. Eligible households can apply for monetary assistance with their cooling expenses. HEAT has normally run during the winter months of each year, but a Cooling Program has been added that starts April 1st through September 30.

Both HEAT and Cooling programs are income-based; the household must meet eligibility requirements according to Federal poverty guidelines. Eligibility is based on the previous month's income. If someone has an appointment or filed an application in May, the program will use April's income and expenses. If an applicant has one month that is leaner than others, the following month would be the best time to apply for assistance. Both HEAT and Cooling allow a deduction for out-of-pocket medical expenses (i.e. prescription drugs, doctor co-pays, vision, hearing and dental, hospital, etc.). In essence, a household could be eligible one month and not another.(1004110)

Set an appointment at the local office or go online at https://fivecountyheat. org Applicants must provide specific documents for their application to be processed. That includes governmentissued photo ID, Social Security card for applicant and everyone living in the household, copy of the most recent utility bills, proof of income and proof of eligible medical receipts. Additional documentation might include proof of disability (if under 60 years), and birth certificate for a child under 6 years old. Seniors over 60 years may self-declare a disability without documentation. If families meet any of these target groups, they may be eligible for an extra credit.

The HEAT Program provides yearround energy and water assistance as well as energy and water-related crisis assistance for eligible low-income households throughout Utah. Clients may qualify for a heating benefit (October-March), cooling benefit (April-September) and water assistance when they apply for the HEAT Program.

If interested, call (435) 644-3803 for an appointment or a paper application.

Applicants can apply for the Cooling Program one of three ways: 1.)



## COOLING PROGRAM APRIL 1-SEPTEMBER 30

For a limited time, the HEAT Program will be able to help eligible households with a cooling benefit. Applications for cooling will begin April and the household would need to meet HEAT eligibility requirements to qualify for a cooling benefit.

#### **Qualifying Income Levels**

| Household<br>Size | 100% of<br>Poverty | 150% of<br>Poverty |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1                 | \$1,133            | \$1,699            |
| 2                 | \$1,526            | \$2,289            |
| 3                 | \$1,919            | \$2,879            |
| 4                 | \$2,313            | \$3,469            |
| 5                 | \$2,706            | \$4,059            |
| 6                 | \$3,099            | \$4,649            |
| 7                 | \$3,493            | \$5,239            |
|                   |                    |                    |

The total household income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty.



### CALL YOUR LOCAL HEAT OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

- Washington County 435-652-9643
- Garfield County 435-438-3584
- Beaver County 435-438-3584

- Iron County 435-586-0858
- Kane County 435-644-3803

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: FIVECOUNTYHEAT.ORG

# Now is the time to switch to Garkane Propane

If Garkane Propane is not your current propane provider, give us a call. We would like to provide you with exceptional service and a price you can appreciate. By pre-buying bulk propane when costs are down and using bulk storage, we are able to pass the savings to all of our customers. Garkane propane has offices in Kanab, Hatch, and Loa. Our service-techs and

delivery drivers in Kanab and Hatch can meet our customer's needs, while monitoring your tanks and providing the best customer service in the area.

Garkane propane would like to thank each member of the cooperative for allowing us the opportunity to provide services to everyone in our service territory. We enjoy what we do and look forward to meeting your needs.





SURGE PROTECTION Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event

**REMEMBER:** Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Let's take a look at common causes of power surges and how you can protect your sensitive electronics.

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates. (1103900)

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home. Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a

trusted electrician to learn more.

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Spring - 2022

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. Whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Garkane offers surge protectors at the meter. If you are interested, please contact Garkane. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.

Contact Garkan Energy if you have questions about ways to protect your home from power surges.



Power surges have many causes. Investigate any signs of faulty wiring such as visible burns, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers.



# 2021 Financial Annual Report - Statement of Revenues

| Consolidated Statements of Revenue & Patronage Capital, as of Dec. 31 |               |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|
|   | 2021          | 2020         |
| <b>Operating Revenue</b><br>Revenues                                  | \$32,206,584  | \$29,254,427 |
| Expenses & Deductions   |               |              |
| Cost of Sales   | 14,559,122    | 12,565,013   |
| Transmission Expense  | 698,229       | 522,554      |
| Distribution Expense  | 3,193,795     | 2,809,007    |
| Consumer Accounts Expense   | 786,172       | 761,352      |
| Customer Service Expense  | 324,065       | 313,729      |
| Administrative & General Expense                                      | 5,126,333     | 4,837,451    |
| Depreciation & Amortization Expense                                   | 4,239,461     | 4,032,606    |
| Tax Expense   | 684,080       | 749,394      |
| Interest Expense  | 1,296,934     | 1,316,611    |
| Other Deductions  | 25,433        | 16,404       |
| TOTAL COST OF SERVICE   | 30,933,624    | \$27,924,121 |
| OPERATING MARGINS   | \$1,272,960   | \$1,330,306  |
| Non-Operating Margins & Other Credits                                 |               |              |
| Interest Earnings   | 27,766        | 53,940       |
| Other Capital Credits & Allocations                                   | 458,204       | 447,063      |
| Misc. Non-Operating Income  | 51,168        | 16,318       |
| Gain/Loss on Disposition of Property                                  | 398,238       | 162,051      |
| Other (Including Extraordinary Items)<br>Provision for Income Taxes   | 1,424,716<br> | 59,920<br>   |
| NET MARGINS   | \$3,633,052   | \$2,069,598  |
| Patronage Capital - Beginning of Year                                 | 52,544,459    | 51,630,084   |
| Refund of Patronage Capital Credits                                   | (1,577,140)   | (1,155,233)  |
| PATRONAGE CAPITAL - END OF YEAR                                       | \$54,600,371  | \$52,544,459 |

## 2021 Expenditure Mix

Wholesale Power

40.52%

Operating Ex-

32.81%

Depreciation & Int. Taxes

19.43%

Margin

4.73%

2.51%



## 2021 Financial Annual Report - Balance Sheet

| Consolidated Balance Sheets, as of Dec. 31 | 2021          | 2020          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| ASSETS                                     |               |               |
| Long-Term Assets                           |               |               |
| Plant                                      | \$141,789,686 | \$138,168,735 |
| Less: Depreciation                         | (63,397,808)  | (59,270,341)  |
| NET PLANT                                  | 78,391,878    | 78,898,394    |
| Non-Utility Property                       | 3,077,287     | 3,082,146     |
| Investments in Assoc. Organizations        | 2,117,885     | 2,079,986     |
| Other Investments                          | 472,412       | 198,430       |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM ASSETS                     | 84,059,462    | 84,258,956    |
| Current Assets                             |               |               |
| Cash                                       | 2,327,454     | 4,566,989     |
| Accounts Receivable - Net                  | 5,237,248     | 4,725,936     |
| Materials & Supplies                       | 5,295,527     | 4,400,574     |
| Prepayments & Other Accrued Assets         | 808,126       | 772,704       |
| Total Current Assets                       | 13,668,355    | 14,466,203    |
| TOTAL ASSETS                               | \$97,727,817  | \$98,725,159  |
| LIABILITIES & PATRONAGE                    |               |               |
| Patronage Capital                          | \$54,600,371  | \$52,544,459  |
| LONG-TERM DEBT                             |               |               |
| Deferred Income Tax Liability - NET        | 454,493       | 459,567       |
| Accumulated Operating Provisions           | 4,380         | -             |
| Other Long-Term Debt                       | 442,943       | 1,853,931     |
| CFC Mortgage Notes                         | 31,299,546    | 33,178,617    |
| TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT                       | 32,201,362    | 35,492,115    |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES                        |               |               |
| Accounts Payable                           | 2,980,368     | 2,943,764     |
| Consumer Deposits                          | 505,355       | 506,088       |
| Other Current Liabilities                  | 5,797,883     | 5,553,980     |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES                  | 9,283,606     | 9,003,832     |
| Deferred Credits                           | 1,642,478     | 1,684,753     |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & PATRONAGE              | \$97,727,817  | \$98,725,159  |
|  |               |               |

## 2021 Customer Mix - 14,696 Members



Small Commercial

Large Commercial Street Lights

Irrigation

1.96%



- 30.39%
- 5.14%

8.33%



# From the CEO's Desk

by Dan McClendon



Dear Members of Garkane,

As Spring approaches, I'm excited to announce that we will be holding inperson Annual Meetings this year. It's been two years since we've been able to hold one in person, and we are excited to get out and talk face-to-face with our membership. I invite you to attend the annual meeting that best suits your location.

Over the last year, Garkane has seen many changes due to increased costs and supply chain issues, and we want to keep our membership informed. Due to ongoing delays from our suppliers, materials dealing with new construction can be greatly delayed, anywhere from 6-12 months. Changes have also been made to the New Construction and Net-Meter fee process. Starting May 1st, the Engineering Deposit will move to \$390 to cover the true cost of service. The net meter non-refundable deposit is \$240, and the Net Metering Commission fee is \$470.

At Garkane Energy Cooperative we

recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. We've had a few of our own close call accidents where vehicles have knocked over transformer pedestals, exposing live wires. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Garkane employees hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of padmounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices, we participate in a leadership camp where over a 150 high school students get a first-hand demonstration on electrical safety.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle--by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. (484904)

Contact us for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

We want to thank you for your continued support and engagement in your cooperative. We hope to see you at the annual meetings.

Sincerely, Dan McClendon



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.