



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Prioritize safety

ALL YEAR - R O U N D

AT Lincoln Electric 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. 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 us, safety is more than a catchphrase. At Lincoln Electric, we all have a 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 Lincoln Electric 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 powerlines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices. We perform high-voltage safety training for local first responders.

Electricity is an integral part of

PLUG
INTO
SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority
this month, and every month.

modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, we'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

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BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on March 18. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved an Annual Meeting date of Saturday, April 12, 2025.
- Authorized Rick Peterson, Rod Kane, Ethel White, Marianne Roose, and Myra Appel to attend the Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting in Kalispell in April.
- Authorized Marianne Roose to attend the CFC Forum in Indianapolis, Indiana, in June.
- Assigned Marianne Roose as the voting delegate representing Lincoln Electric at the InterBel Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting in April.
- Accepted a bid to sell a surplus Lincoln Electric 2003 Chevrolet Silverado.
- Approved a donation of \$750 for Rendezvous Days.
- Approved a donation of \$700 for A.L.E.R.T.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE FEBRUARY 2024	YEAR TO DATE FEBRUARY 2023
kWh SALES	34,148,460	31,433,551
REVENUE	\$3,007,766	\$2,691,443
COST OF POWER	\$1,736,060	\$1,330,570
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$856,463	\$871,682
MARGINS	\$149,550	\$248,638
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,218	5,098
NUMBER OF METERS	6,543	6,436
MILES OF LINE	1,014	1,005
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$39,451,449	\$38,685,947
MEMBER EQUITY	\$14,893,660	\$13,807,703
FEBRUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,934	2,050
FEBRUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$177.68	\$175.40


SAFETY

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used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

Lincoln Electric encourages you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead powerlines 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.

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

REMEMBER AND HONOR

MEMORIAL DAY

— ★ ★ ★ —



CLOSURE

Lincoln Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 27

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

1-406-889-3301
 info@lincolnelectric.coop
 www.lincolnelectric.coop
 Secure Payments: 1-833-890-6258

ALWAYS REPORT OUTAGES TO:

1-406-889-3301

OFFICE

312 Osloski Road
 PO BOX 628
 Eureka, Montana 59917

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tina Taurman
 President

Joel Graves
 Vice President

Sandi Mason
 Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel
Becky Evins
Rodney Kane
Rick Peterson
Marianne Roose
Ethel White

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees holds regular monthly meetings at the boardroom in the cooperative office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend. If you have any items of interest, please contact the general manager prior to the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort *and* savings.



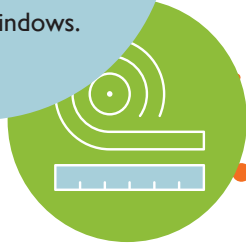
1 CAULK

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 WEATHERSTRIPPING

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 INSULATE

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

Unlock comfort *and* savings

IF you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months, when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to *energystar.gov*, a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20 percent of the energy used to heat or cool the

home — that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY, and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not

be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice, and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

Another effective but simple weath-

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SAVINGS

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erization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are

available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double-hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites such as *Lowes.com* or *energy.gov* for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in the winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a

qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

The best way to identify air leaks in your home is a blower door test, which can be conducted by one of Lincoln Electric's energy experts. A blower door test helps determine how airtight your home is, and identify air leaks. Our free home energy audits are a benefit of your co-op membership, so we encourage you to take advantage of this helpful service.

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.

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FIRST RESPONDER HIGH-VOLTAGE SAFETY TRAINING

WHEN: Tuesday, May 21 at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Lincoln Electric Warehouse
HOW: To register, contact us at 406-889-3301 or memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

