

# Polk County Rural Public Power District

*"Committed to enhancing the lives of our  
customers by providing safe, reliable,  
economical energy now and into the future."*



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## Work Safe - Home Safe, When a 4x6 Just Won't Cut It

By Erin Dickey

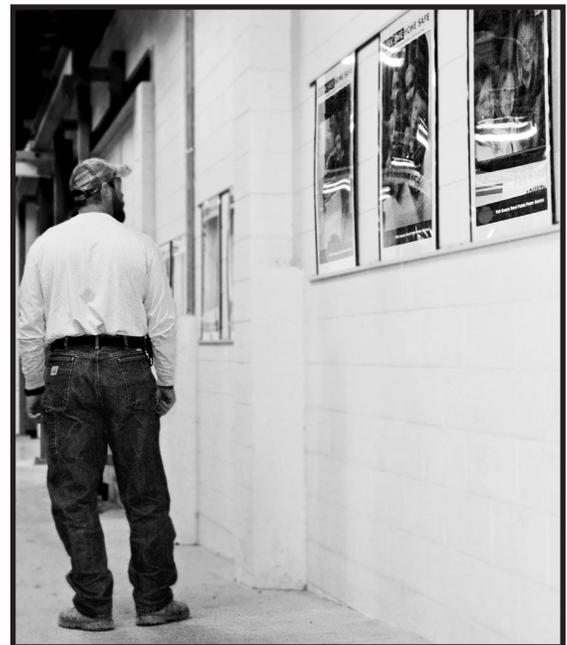
Coming to work each day can stir-up a broad range of emotions for different people. It may take some 'personal negotiation' or 'self-bribery' to get oneself into the groove of the day. *I'd like a large Carmel Macchiato, extra shot of Espresso please.* For others, mornings may come easy and the challenge of starting another day fuels a sense of energy. Approaching one's workstation or desk usually means some kind of personal touches, distinguishing one person's area from another. Whether its a favorite coffee mug, a chaotic mess of papers, a pristine cleanliness of perfectly stacked notepads, personal family photos or children's artwork; they all speak volumes of the occupant of that space. Are they creative, a procrastinator, a family man, border-line OCD or maybe an overachiever? At Polk County Rural Public Power District, the concept of personalizing one's workspace has been taken to a whole new level.

While most people's family photos are encased in a simple 4x6 or maybe the occasional 5x7 frame, the workspace for PCRPPD's linemen calls for a much bigger canvas. Taking the linemen's workspace far beyond the

boundaries of their lockers, PCRPPD has embraced the reality that while their linemen wear a hard hat for 8 hours of the day, the responsibility and full-time hat of 'family man' can never be removed. A title that never leaves them whether high in the air in the fiberglass bucket or sitting in a conference room, these linemen of PCRPPD are first and foremost someone's dad, uncle, son, brother or friend.

In the hallway between the break room and the north garage, PCRPPD has a paved path of motivation for their linemen to pause, focus and remember why they risk their lives each and every day. Framed in 864 square inches, little faces smile at their dads as they begin their work day. A striking reminder of the level of responsibility

they carry not only for themselves and their co-workers, but for the little faces that will be waiting to greet



*Anthony Schnell stops to reflect and smile as he passes by his son, Conner's photo on the wall as a reminder of the "Work Safe, Home Safe" safety campaign.*

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# "Sparks" Light up Little Eyes at Farm Safety Day



"**Danger-High Voltage**" and the arc of electricity generating as much as 11,000 degrees of heat in 1/6 of a second and the 'sparkle' in the eyes of little onlookers tell the story!

Polk County RPPD linemen were presenters at the annual *Farm Safety Day* sponsored by Progressive. The power of electricity is demonstrated using a live line demo to illustrate the lethal affects of electricity.

Nearly 200 children and adults were on hand to learn about electrical safety on the farm and around the home. Lineman showed several pieces of equipment and safety gear that they use each day to keep them safe.



## Notice of Non-Discrimination

### Polk County Rural Public Power District - 2015 Statement of Non-Discrimination

Polk County Rural Public Power District is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal law and the USDA policy, Polk County RPPD is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Philip L. Burke, General Manager of Polk County RPPD.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at:

[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Polk County Rural Public Power District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Work Safe-Home Safe

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them when they get home. Posed in a PCRPPD truck, little hands hang onto the window frame while toothless smiles and wide grins capture the reality of what a lineman comes to work for each day.

for these men to perform every task with care, diligence and patience. One thoughtless move could mean life or death. No matter the extent of the job, the ability to clearly focus while suspended 40 feet in the air, regard-



This series of 8 pictures are the last thing they see before getting into their trucks and the first thing they see when returning. Work Safe - Home Safe, a crucial responsibility that is taken seriously at PCRPPD.

Tagged as one of the world's most dangerous jobs, linemen work just inches from a more than certain death. Respecting the dangers of the high voltage, linemen toe the line between dare devil and engineer every day. Outfitted in Personal Protective gear or (PPE), linemen must be mentally sharp as well as physically trained to complete the tasks at hand. Climbing vertically while carrying tools and gear can be physically tiring on the lineman. The weight of a lineman's PPE mimics that of an average six year old. While the lineman's PPE is an essential part of safety, their biggest safety asset comes in the form of strong mental focus. It is imperative

less of rain, sleet, snow, the scorching afternoon sun or the dark hours of a moonlit morning, must be at the forefront of their minds.

Understanding the importance of the mental focus and strength required of their linemen, PCRPPD embraces not only the responsibilities these men carry while in their 40 plus pounds of PPE gear, but the countless pounds they love and care for in their children, wives, families and friends.

Polk County Rural Public Power District employees have worked over 280,000 hours without a lost time accident. The last lost time injury was eight years ago. Every hour these men work safe they go home safe, proving the power of family far out weighs any power that can be found at the top of a power line.

***"WORK SAFE, HOME SAFE"***

## Chemical Applicators, and Farmers Must Use Caution

In recent years, throughout Nebraska there have been several occasions where utility personnel have been exposed to toxic field chemicals, or due to those chemicals, could not get access to the power line to restore power to their customers.

In an effort to keep our employees safe, Polk County RPPD would like to request that if you are spraying or applying chemicals that are toxic or may be hazardous to our employees, that you please notify us prior to the application. This will allow us the opportunity to reassign our employees to a different work location and therefore prevent putting them in an unnecessarily dangerous situation.

We appreciate your cooperation. Please call our office at 402/764-4381 or 888/242-5265 if you have questions regarding chemical applications and applicable 'source of entry' times. Farmers, please use extra care when applying chemicals to your fields.

## Save \$30 on a Cooling System Tune-Up

When was the last time you had your home's cooling system tuned up? If it has been a few years, then now is the time to have your HVAC contractor inspect, service and clean your system. Typically tune-ups on cooling systems that have been neglected for a few years can provide 5-15% energy savings or more.

There is a \$30 EnergyWise incentive available to customers who have their system tuned up, regardless of the type or age of the system. Annual maintenance of your system is a good idea, but customers are only eligible for the \$30 incentive every three years.

Polk County RPPD is moving to an automated system to better secure your financial information. The Payment Card Industry (PCI) has set requirements designed to help companies that process payments prevent credit card fraud through increased data controls. Moving to the automated system ensures our continued ability to accept debit, credit and check payments in a highly secured method ensuring you 'peace of mind' knowing that the financial information you give us is secured.



When contacting our office to make a payment you will be directed to this number: 844/859-5977. Please listen closely to the prompts. If you are having trouble making a payment, please don't hesitate calling us at 402/764-4381. Thank you.

## Polk County Rural Public Power District introduces secure pay toll free number: 844/859-5977

If you want to make a payment on your account over the phone using a credit/debit card or check, you must call the above number.



The system is automated and all of your personal information, such as card number and payment amount will be entered by you.

At any time, you may hang up and this will discontinue the phone call.

No additional fee!

Before you call you will need your account number from your statement.

This is applicable for customers who call to make payments over the phone. Checks are still an acceptable form of payment. Thank you.

## E-Bill, A User Friendly and Secured Option to Viewing and Paying Bills

E-Bill is one of the easiest ways to access your account information. You can make payments, submit meter readings and preview past billing history. When it comes to tax time, your payments are conveniently listed at the click of a mouse.

You also have the ability to enter, edit and control your financial accounts with which you will pay your bill. Once you enter your financial information it is securely encrypted and only the last four digits of the card will appear in our customer database. Allowable payments can be made by credit, debit and checking. You can also sign up for recurring payments through e-bill. Another nice feature is to track your monthly costs and consumption through graphs. Several people have commented on this feature to see how graphs flow in heating and cooling seasons. This really helps to understand how weather has an impact on the total monthly consumption. The choice is yours!

One last feature gives customers the ability, through customer contract submission, to inform us of service name, address and phone number changes. Customers use this feature to request service work such as yard light repairs, loose guy wires or trees hanging low into the power lines.

Please log on to: [www.pcrppd.com](http://www.pcrppd.com) to use this service. Newcomers to the site must first register by clicking the second bullet on the opening page. You will need the account number from your most recent statement. If you have any questions, please contact our office and we will be glad to lead you through the process and give you a mini tour of the services available to you.

Paying by Check? Please do not staple your payment stub to the check. When a staple is removed, a slight tear may result and the check or stub may jam our processor. **Also, please do not write checks in red ink.** Most scanners do not read red ink. We thank you in advance for your cooperation which helps us promptly post payments to your account(s).