



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

SUMMER *is in full swing*

Summer is pretty much in full swing, and activity levels have increased accordingly. The cooperative finished up a couple of our larger annual projects this spring, but we still have several items left on our to-do list.

As a general rule, we separate projects into categories, then prioritize the items in each category. Normally, everyday life seems to keep these prioritized lists fairly liquid, which in turn calls for a sharpened focus and attention to detail to overcome these “challenges.” When our effort does not match the requirements of getting the job done correctly and on time, then we are almost sure to fail. That is when other, more personal changes are probably in order.

Osmose completed this year’s pole inspection program in early May. They inspected 1,228 poles and found that 21 (1.71 percent) needed to be replaced. That “reject” rate was much better than the rate the last few years, but it really has more to do with where the poles were located and with past practices in overseeing where they were directed to inspect. While these inspections are required by our regulatory authorities, they are really just sound business practice. Extending the life of a pole is far less expensive than replacing a pole. This is especially true of newer poles where the growth rings can be 10 times wider than old, original growth poles. To retain equal strength, we have to use a larger class of pole — meaning higher costs, which isn’t in line with our goal to keep costs as low as possible.

Both Penn Lines and Energy Group completed their vegetation management cutting contracts by the first of June. Penn Lines cut the Swiger East and Dola feed, while Energy Group completed the work northwest of Chiefton around the old Erie metering point. Together, they cleared about 143 miles.



Terry Stout
CEO/General Manager

Over the last four years, we’ve managed over 530 miles of right-of-way to meet our specifications. Both contractors removed what we call “danger trees” while we were gearing up our own tree cutting unit to address these trees. The expansion and devastation of the ash borer has resulted in far more danger trees than we’ve had in the past. There are so many of these trees that we can’t conceive of an outcome where we can address all of them in just one calendar year.

In addition, we are preparing a request for proposal for next year’s cutting that will cover around 154 miles on the Buckhannon and Charles Point west circuits and conclude a full cycle. The following year, we will begin our new six-year cycle. The six-year cycle is divided up to keep each year’s mileage relatively the same while adhering to the rule of starting and finishing each circuit within the same year. The ongoing six-year rotation will be Jarvisville (111 miles), Oral Lake and Chiefton North (121 miles), Chiefton West (103 miles), Crystal Lake and Buckhannon (122 miles), Swiger East and West (120 miles), and then Dola and Charles Pointe (118 miles). Mileages can and will change over time.

Currently, we have been working on upgrades and new construction for home startups, as well as some gas industry and prep work for a few large construction projects still in their planning stages. We are waiting on cost estimates for in-house projects identified in the sectionalizing study to complete by the end of 2017.

We are still convinced that eliminating metering points is the best solution for the future. Substations remain an expensive asset addition, and transmission providers try to limit grid access as much as possible, but the reality is

Happy Birthday!

If you see these HREA employees this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

Bridget Hinzman

July 15

Terry Stout

July 30



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BY LLOYD MASON



TECHNOLOGY

HOW WILL YOU RECOVER

FROM YOUR NEXT DATA DISASTER?



A good security mindset includes more than just your computing devices.

Did you know every picture you share has personal data attached to it? It's crucial to lock down your data for you and your family's security.

In our last article, I tried to explain a little about the need for regular, focused activity on home and work computers — and all other digital devices for that matter. Anything connected to the internet will generally have a firmware (set of machine instructions) from which it operates. Remember to update all your devices to include firmware so you are protected. More and more manufacturers are factory setting devices to update automatically, but that doesn't always

happen, so best practice is to make sure yourself. Check your phone, tablet, router, PC, printer, and even your thermostat or fire alarm (Nest, Honeywell, etc.). The only thing that can be relied upon is your own actions.

As horrible as all this sounds, more is on the way. All experts agree that with the ever-growing dependence on cyberspace, cybersecurity is of the highest importance now and for the foreseeable future.

A good security mindset includes more than just your computing devices. Make sure the path to digital recovery has been outlined and tested, the way you might test a fire drill escape route in your own home.

Plan how you will react should your credit card number be stolen. Make sure you call the bank that issued the credit card, as well as calling the bank that holds your checking and savings accounts. Make a list of all the connected accounts and services that may be connected to the web; I bet you have more than you think. Have you updated the information lately? Have you changed your passwords recently? Have you asked your bank what protections they offer? Have you discontinued using a debit card at all? I did. This is the very best way to protect your debit card: Leave it at home.

Use your credit card as a buffer, and only use it online. Most banks offer an online credit card number for temporary use in web purchasing. Furthermore, a credit card company will have its own protections and mechanisms in place to limit personal loss, and in most cases, assist in removing unauthorized users or recovering any stolen funds.

Till next time @TechCorner.

LLOYD MASON is the manager of information technology at Harrison REA. He writes monthly on technology issues.

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that we cannot continue to rely on point of interchanges where the supply side is not properly maintained. We are also conducting our due diligence in studying some non-electric project possibilities to determine their actual feasibility and benefit to our membership.

Finally, we continue to study the various opportunities

around renewable energy. While having our own generation for only the cooperative's use and lowering our reliance on the for-profit based grid is intriguing, we just have not found a solution that is either cost-neutral or a cost savings to the membership as a whole.

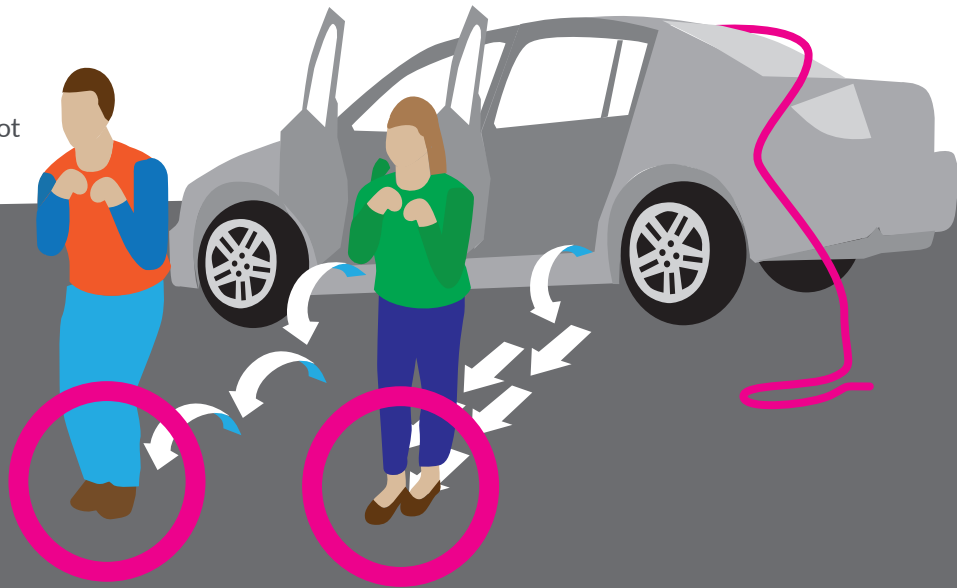
We hope you have a wonderful, safe summer.



SAFETY

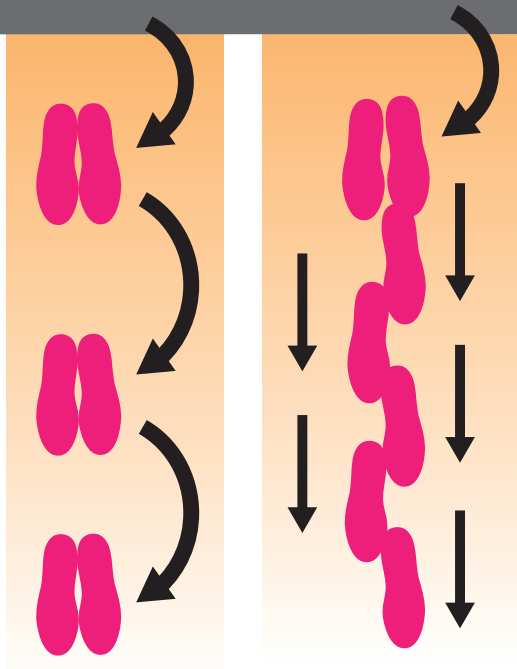
What to do if a power line is on or near your car

- 1** If you can drive in reverse away from the area, do so cautiously. Do not drive over downed power lines. Always assume that power lines are energized.
- 2** If you can't drive away, call 911. Let emergency responders know where you are and what has happened. The safest thing to do is stay in your car until emergency crews arrive to assist you.
- 3** Honk your horn to alert passers-by. Roll down the window and warn people not to touch the car or the line.
- 4** If you must exit, open the vehicle door all the way. Ensure that you use the handle and that you do not touch any other part of the door.
- 5** Prepare to jump. Stand up with elbows tucked into your stomach and hands held close to your chest.



- 6** Jump out of your vehicle. Do your best to land as far as possible from your vehicle, with your feet together, and without stumbling. You must **never** be in contact with both your vehicle and the ground at the same time.

- 7** Shuffle-walk or hop until you have reached a safe area at least 33 feet from the downed power line or electricity source. As you shuffle or hop, keep your feet touching one another at all times.



- 8** Different parts of the ground could be energized at different voltages. If your feet are each in different voltage areas, electricity could run from one area to the other through you. This is why it is important to shuffle or hop and always keep your feet together.

- 9** Once you are in a safe area at least 33 feet from the power source, wait for emergency crews.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Emerging outdoor lighting technologies

Emerging technologies for outdoor lighting are coming in the form of new controls and networking capabilities.



All electric light sources have a common ancestor — Thomas Edison’s incandescent bulb. As interest in energy conservation began to take hold, new bulbs surfaced, including high-pressure sodium (HPS) and compact florescent (CFL) bulbs.

Today, light emitting diode (LED) light sources shine in the spotlight. They have a number of advantages:

- LEDs use less energy. Replacing an HPS light with an LED delivers an immediate 50 percent increase in savings.
- The color of light produced is much more appealing and can be tuned if desired. Light from an LED source is also easily focused, which eliminates light pollution.
- LED sources have longer life spans and are more durable since there are no filaments or electrodes.

The next technological advances in outdoor lighting are coming in the areas of control and networking. Control of outdoor lights today is rudimentary and focused solely on turning them on or off at particular times or in response to motion.

LEDs lend themselves especially well to control and networking strategies. What’s the benefit of that? Varying the light output on a time or event basis can save energy and improve safety and security. Examples include reducing output when fewer people

are spending time outdoors and increasing output during outdoor events. Color output can be tuned for special events or to meet specific requests. Well-lit streets are safer for drivers and pedestrians, a deterrent to criminal activity, and add to the overall image of a town, neighborhood, or home.

The quest for energy savings, improved light quality, and reduced maintenance costs have driven the evolution of outdoor lighting. Is the LED the end of the lighting family tree? Not likely. But for now, the next big thing will be the application of control and networking technologies to gain additional benefits from the LED.



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