

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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For outage
updates,
energy
efficiency tips and
cooperative news.



By emphasizing the goal of “going home” in safety training, RHEC aims to create a safety culture where we are deeply committed to making safe choices, looking out for one another, and actively participating in safety initiative programs. This approach helps reduce accidents and injuries, saving lives and minimizing the human and financial costs associated with workplace incidents.



From left: Jerry Roesti and JR Hynek discuss the importance of checking ropes for flaws or frays with Jaden Atwood and Evan Keating.



Rolling Hills linemen (from left) Mike Callaway and Hunter Teel climb a pole with their new high-visibility hard hats.

Board Approves Rules and Regulations

On Sept. 19, 2023, the Rolling Hills Board approved the proposed rules and regulations. To view, please visit our website at www.rollinghills.coop/rules-regulations-and-bylaws.

YOUTH PROGRAM TRIPS

Summer 2024



Applications open now for all-expenses-paid trips and scholarships

Summer 2024 may seem far away as fall fades and winter approaches, but finding and selecting stellar delegates for youth trips takes time. Rolling Hills Electric is now accepting applications from high school juniors who are interested in competing for a “trip of a lifetime.”

In addition to attending one of two trips, **EACH WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP** upon high school graduation to college of choice.

To be eligible, parents’ or guardians’ primary residence must be on Rolling Hills Electric’s power lines. We encourage all eligible students to apply for the summer youth trips!

Rolling Hills will sponsor two delegates:

- ▶ One high school junior will travel to Washington, D.C., as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.
- ▶ One high school junior will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Rolling Hills Electric pays for transportation, lodging, meals and other incidental costs for both trips. The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If trip coordinators feel that travel is unsafe, we will cancel the trips. In this case, we may ask delegates to participate in an alternate activity for an award.

TO APPLY, SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY DEC. 30, 2023.

Application details can be found at www.rollinghills.coop/apply-our-youth-programs.

Summer will be here before you know it. **DON'T DELAY; ENTER TODAY!**



Submit your application by Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023.

2024 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Student Phone _____ Student Email _____

Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Electric Account No. _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Phone _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Email _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.

Teel Promoted to Apprentice Lineman



Hunter Teel

HUNTER TEEL was promoted from intern to full-time apprentice lineman based out of Rolling Hills' Beloit District.

Teel started his internship with Rolling Hills Electric in May 2023 and completed his internship this fall. He attended Pratt Community College and earned his Utility Line Certificate in May 2023. Hunter enjoys working on his truck in his free time.

Congratulations on your well-deserved promotion and welcome to the Rolling Hills Electric family!

Beware of Damaged Power Equipment

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time. However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and pad-mounted transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

What Occurs When Utility Equipment is Damaged?

- ▶ **STEP POTENTIAL** happens when a person walks from one voltage "ripple" to another, and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- ▶ **TOUCH POTENTIAL** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage. Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to Stay Safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it

can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment.

TO STAY SAFE AROUND DAMAGED UTILITY EQUIPMENT:

- ▶ Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- ▶ Call 911.
- ▶ Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- ▶ Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

IF YOU MUST EXIT DUE TO A FIRE, CAREFULLY DO THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
 - ▶ Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
 - ▶ Make solid hops with your feet together and hop as far away as you can.
 - ▶ If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
 - ▶ Do not return to the vehicle.
- IF YOU ARE NEAR THE SCENE:**
- ▶ Do not approach the scene to help.
 - ▶ Stay at least 50 feet away.
 - ▶ Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged pad-mounted transformer.

Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of the holiday.

From our co-op family to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and pressure cookers consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV





DON'T LET POWER LINES Fade into the Landscape

3 Types of Overhead Lines



TRANSMISSION



DISTRIBUTION



SERVICE DROP

Regardless of the type or voltage, any power line can kill if the path of the electrical current is disrupted.



Always look up and look out for power lines when working outdoors.

Be careful any time you go up, whether it be on a ladder, scissor lift or in a cherry picker.



Look for Power Lines When:



Operating a crane, concrete or pump truck.



Raising a truck bed.



Using any long tool or equipment that extends.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

Cold Weather Rule: What You Need to Know

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. wants consumer-members to have the electric service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter. Rolling Hills Electric also recognizes the member's responsibility to make contact to establish payment arrangements. When we work together it ensures both goals are met.



The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

What Does the Cold Weather Rule Mean for Me?

The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric service for their homes during the winter. You must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

How Do I Qualify?

If you cannot pay your entire electric bill, call Rolling Hills Electric to make payment arrangements:

Agree to pay 1/12 of the past due amount of your bill, plus your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months.

Negotiate a payment plan to pay the past due amount off in fewer billing cycles.

It will be necessary to pay your current monthly bill while paying off the past-due amount.

It will be necessary to contact Rolling Hills Electric if you are unable to fulfill the above qualifications.

What Can You Expect from Rolling Hills Electric?

Rolling Hills Electric will inform you of the Cold Weather Rule payment plan as well as other available payment options. Remember, under the Cold Weather Rule, you have the option of spreading your payment over a 12-month period.

Rolling Hills Electric will send written notice to consumer-members 10 days before disconnection, plus will call by phone or make personal contact the day before.

Can I Be Disconnected During the Cold Weather Rule?

Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect your primary residence when the temperature is forecast to drop below 35 degrees over the next 48 hours, except in certain circumstances.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

Rolling Hills Electric may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

If the 48-hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast of below 35 degrees, Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect until there is another 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

Questions?

Please call Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 800-530-5572. The Cold Weather Rule applies only to existing residential consumer-members at their primary residence and is subject to the rules and regulations of the cooperative.