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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Updating an older home for
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Spring safety tips

Breakfast and brunch recipes

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THE POWER OF TEAMWORK

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



You've likely noticed Franklin REC crews out and about, working on power lines and electrical equipment throughout our service territory. While

linemen are often the most visible, providing safe and reliable electricity requires far more effort than what happens in the field. At Franklin REC, it's the combined efforts of our line crew and inside personnel – working together every day – that keep the power flowing to our members. This is the power of teamwork, and it's how we remain steadfast in our commitment to our membership.

The demanding work of line crews

The work performed in the field can be heavy – literally and physically. The tools and equipment a lineman carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds, about the same as carrying six gallons of water, all while climbing poles ranging from 30 to 120 feet tall. These activities often take place during challenging weather conditions, thus making it no easy feat. It's physically



Franklin REC's employee team.

demanding work that requires strength, focus and a strong respect for safety.

Being a lineman is more than a job – it's a lifestyle. Long hours, non-traditional schedules and dangerous conditions are part of the reality. In fact, linework consistently ranks among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Whether it's working in intense heat, bitter cold, high winds and storms, or even during beautiful 75 degree and sunny days, linemen must remain alert and prepared at all times.

While the job does not require a traditional college degree, it does demand extensive technical skills, hands-on learning and years of training. Becoming a journeyman lineman can require more than 7,000 hours of training, which is roughly four years. Working with high-voltage electricity leaves no room for shortcuts or mistakes. Experience, mental toughness and a commitment to safety are essential to the job.

Keeping members powered doesn't stop out in the field, it's backed by a strong support system.

The support team behind reliable power

Complementing the work on the job site is a dedicated team of inside personnel who ensure Franklin REC operates safely and efficiently every day. This includes employees who coordinate operations, prepare and manage materials and equipment, assist members and support outage response efforts. From the warehouse and grounds crews to operations support

and administrative roles, each position plays a vital role in delivering reliable electric service to our members.

During severe weather events, teamwork becomes even more critical. While our line crew is restoring power in difficult and often dangerous conditions, inside personnel are working behind the scenes by tracking outages, preparing supplies, coordinating response efforts, communicating with members and ensuring crews have what they need to work safely. It's a coordinated, around-the-clock effort with one shared goal: restoring power as quickly and safely as possible.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. At Franklin REC, six linemen are responsible for maintaining more than 800 miles of power lines across six counties, 24/7. Alongside them is a committed team of inside personnel whose support makes that work possible and ensures our cooperative remains responsive and member-focused.

At Franklin REC, powered for members isn't just a phrase – it's how we operate. It's the linemen in the field and the inside personnel behind the scenes, working together to power homes, farms and businesses across our service territory.

It truly takes a team to keep your power on, and that's the power of teamwork.

Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO of Franklin REC.



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Hampton, IA 50441

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Telephone Number

641-456-2557
Calls answered 24/7

Secure Pay-by-Phone Number

1-855-940-3953

Website

www.franklinrec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FRANKLIN REC LINEMAN SELECTED TO REPRESENT IOWA AT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Franklin REC is proud to recognize Lineworker Cole Marzen for being selected to represent Iowa at this year's Quad State Instructors (QSI) Lineworker Leadership Conference.

Cole was chosen by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' Safety Coordinators to attend the national conference, which brings together emerging lineworker leaders from across the country. The conference focuses on strengthening safety culture, encouraging collaboration and empowering lineworkers to positively influence their utilities and communities.

Cole's selection reflects the leadership qualities he demonstrates each day on the job. He takes the time to explain why tasks are performed a certain way, remains approachable and willing to answer questions, and consistently emphasizes safe work practices. His commitment to mentorship and teamwork helps reinforce a strong culture of safety at Franklin REC.

"It's a great privilege and honor to be nominated to attend the QSI Lineworker Leadership Conference,"



Congratulations, Cole, on this well-deserved honor!

Cole said, "I'm looking forward to connecting with other linemen and learning how different utilities approach our work. I'm excited to bring new ideas and knowledge back to share with my coworkers."

Cole's dedication to safety, leadership and the cooperative's mission of providing safe, reliable electricity to our members makes us incredibly proud.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the January meeting, Franklin REC directors took action on the following:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$237,871.79
- Approved large load tariff rate
- Approved interruptible tariff rate
- Approved amendment of 401(k) and pension plan

During the February meeting, Franklin REC directors took action on the following:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$258,109.38
- Approved date change for August board meeting
- Approved employee handbook update to section 7.1
- Approved termination agreement of mobile radios

REMINDER TO VOTE — BALLOTS DUE APRIL 20

Franklin REC members are reminded to submit their official mailing ballot before Monday, April 20, for your vote to be counted in this year's annual meeting.

Returning your ballot not only gives you a voice in your cooperative, but it also comes with a thank you. Members who submit their ballot will receive a one-time \$10 bill credit and will be entered for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards.



WHAT ARE THOSE BIG GREEN BOXES?

The big green boxes you see on properties may not be the prettiest, but they have an important job. These padmount transformers are underground transformers that allow overhead power lines to be trenched underground, reducing the risk of damage from weather, trees, and other exterior hazards while still safely energizing your home, business or farm. Their job is to reduce the high-voltage electricity traveling on the transmission or distribution system to a safe, usable voltage before entering your service location.

While padmount transformers may not win any beauty contests, it's important to remember these units are highly energized and can be deadly if tampered with. Franklin REC recommends keeping at least 10 feet of clear space around your transformer to protect both you and the equipment.

If a padmount transformer is damaged or compromised, it could energize the surrounding ground and create a serious risk of injury.



If you have questions or concerns about padmount transformers, contact Franklin REC.

As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, follow these safety tips regarding your transformer:

- **Call 811 before you dig.** This free service ensures Franklin REC will locate your underground electrical lines up to your meter. Iowa law requires a call is made to 811 before digging.
- **Keep vegetation at least 10 feet away.** Trees, shrubs and other plants can interfere with underground equipment, if planted too closely.

- **Report damage or tampering.** Contact Franklin REC immediately if the transformer appears unlocked or damaged.
- **Maintain clear access.** A clear path allows the cooperative to service equipment, restore power quickly during outages and ensure safety.

Always remind children not to sit on, open or play around the green boxes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES!

Scott Hagenson, line superintendent, has been named Franklin REC's Touchstone Energy® Volunteer of the Month.

In recognition of his efforts, a \$100 donation in Scott's honor will go to the Clear Lake Fire Department to support their statue display project. The project is a meaningful addition to the community and celebrates the dedication of local first responders.



We appreciate Scott's commitment to giving back and are proud to support the causes that matter most to our employees!

Franklin REC is proud to recognize Lead Lineman Tom Demro for 12 years of dedicated service to the cooperative.

Throughout the years, Tom has played an important role in maintaining the reliability and safety of our electric system. His technical expertise, leadership and commitment to serving our members make a difference every day.



Congratulations on 12 years, Tom! Thank you for all you do for Franklin REC and our members.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY — IT COULD BE YOURS!

Franklin REC, located at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441, is holding unclaimed property resulting from a refund due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address above, emailing kringleb@franklinrec.coop or calling 641-456-2557. If the cooperative does not hear from the owner within six (6) months, we are allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property. If you know the owner or a family member of the owner, please have them contact the office and ask for Karen.

Some of the names listed below have had checks mailed out and were never cashed or returned to the office. If you are holding a check, please contact the Franklin REC office.

ADELMUND, JENNIFER & LARRY	NEW HARTFORD IA	LORENZEN, MICHELLE	DUMONT IA
AUSTIN, JOHN B	PRESCOTT AZ	LUDICK, MICHAEL	LE MARS IA
BECKER, THOMAS	MASON CITY IA	MALLOY, DALLAS	IOWA FALLS IA
BORRIL, KEVIN	CLEAR LAKE IA	MCCOID, D'EARL	HAMPTON IA
BUSS, IRENE	MASON CITY IA	MCDOWELL, SAM & REBECCA	PAHRUMP NV
BUTT, IVAN	POLK CITY IA	MEYER FARM	IOWA FALLS IA
CONRIN, DOROTHY A	MASON CITY IA	MEYER, GLENNE	IOWA FALLS IA
CROSS, MARJORIE	OSCEOLA IA	MILLER, ELIZ. (ELIZABETH M PRICE)	GRANVILLE OH
DIETRICH, AARON	MASON CITY IA	MILLER, HOWARD P	SUN CITY WEST AZ
EDGINGTON, FLOYD JR	SHEFFIELD IA	MILLER, PERRY	POPEJOY IA
EIDE, JEREMY	ALDEN IA	MOSER, JIM & LINDA K	GERING NE
ENDEVOUR FARMS (JEFF NICHOLAS)	CLEAR LAKE IA	MYERS, STEVE	HAMPTON IA
GABBARD, MICHELLE R	LYLE MN	NATURAL PORK PROD II, LLP	AUDUMON IA
GARCIA, TRISHA & FERNANDO	HAMPTON IA	NAUMANN, SCOTT & DANIELLE	DOUGHERTY IA
GRISWOLD, STEVE	REINBECK IA	NEWELL, CORY	ACKLEY IA
HACKBARTH, STEVE	WATERLOO IA	NEXTELL	COLUMBUS OH
HANSEN BROTHERS FARMS	VIENNA VA	NICHOLAS, JEFF	CLEAR LAKE IA
HANSON, MERRILL	EDMONDS WA	PARKS, REX	HAMPTON IA
HARTSON, DARYL	FREDERICKSBURG IA	POLING, CHRIS	COULTER IA
HEINS, MARTHA E	CLEAR LAKE IA	RESER, DONALD	MESA AZ
HEJLIK, W.G.	SHEFFIELD IA	RIKER, JAMES H & JANICE K	OSAGE IA
HISH, JASON	PRINCETON MN	ROCHA, PENNY K	ALEXANDER IA
HISLOP, SCOTT	MAPLETON MN	SBA INC - IA04381	BOCA RATON FL
HODAK, GERG A & ALLYSON	IOWA FALLS IA	SCHULTE, ENGELINA	SAINT PAUL MN
HODGE, KEN	ACKLEY IA	SCHUMACHER, DENNIS (JR) OR JUDI	OMAHA NE
HUNT, MERLE W	ACKLEY IA	SENEY, KEVIN	CHARITON IA
IOWA WIRELESS SITE IA01	URBANDALE IA	SHERIFF, LARRY W	COLLINSVILLE, TX
JACKSON, CHARLES R JR	ROCKWELL IA	SIFFLET, JUDY L & JASON HEFFLIN SIFFLET	HIGLEY AZ
JOHNSON, APRIL	ALDEN IA	SNYDER, JOAN	MESERVEY IA
JOHNSON, THOMAS K & BARBARA	ROCKWELL IA	STANBROUGH, DEAN	ALAMOGRADO NM
JOHNSTON, AMANDA	APLINGTON IA	STREET, RONALD D	MARSHALLTOWN IA
KEISTER, G B (GB KEISTER FARM TRUST)	EDINA MN	SUDTELGTGE, JACOB J	IOWA FALLS IA
KOTHENBEUTEL, DARYL F	CLEAR LAKE IA	THARPE, DOUG	WAWERLY IA
KOTHENBEUTEL, JANICE	ROCKWELL IA	TUPPER, DEBORAH S	CHARITON IA
KRUSE, AMANDA	HAMPTON IA	VOSBURGH, LELIA J	CLEAR LAKE IA
LAUDNER, KARL	SHEFFIELD IA	WATKINS, HILARY	IOWA FALLS IA
LEMKE, JAMES L & BARBARA G	AMES IA	WILLIS, SARAH	MINNEAPOLIS MN
LENDERS ASSET MGMT	LITTLETON CO	WINSLOW, FRANK	BELLEVILLE IL
LERDAL, MIKE	THORNTON IA	WUBBEN, ANDREW & KATHLEEN	MASON CITY IA



FRANKLIN REC ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

Franklin REC's voluntary Alternative Energy Program allows members to support the development of renewable energy projects with contributions to the fund. The funding for the program, provided by our members, supports the development of alternative energy production facilities in Iowa. These contributions not only provide the opportunity to purchase alternative energy but also assist in the development of nontraditional generation in Iowa.

This is a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that is automatically added to monthly bills in \$1 increments. To enroll in the Alternative Energy Program, complete the form below.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FUND AUTHORIZATION FORM

One-time contribution \$ _____

Payments made payable to Franklin REC.

Monthly contribution \$ _____

This amount will be automatically applied to your monthly electric bill. You may opt-in or opt-out of the program at any time.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip code _____

Billing account number _____

Signature _____

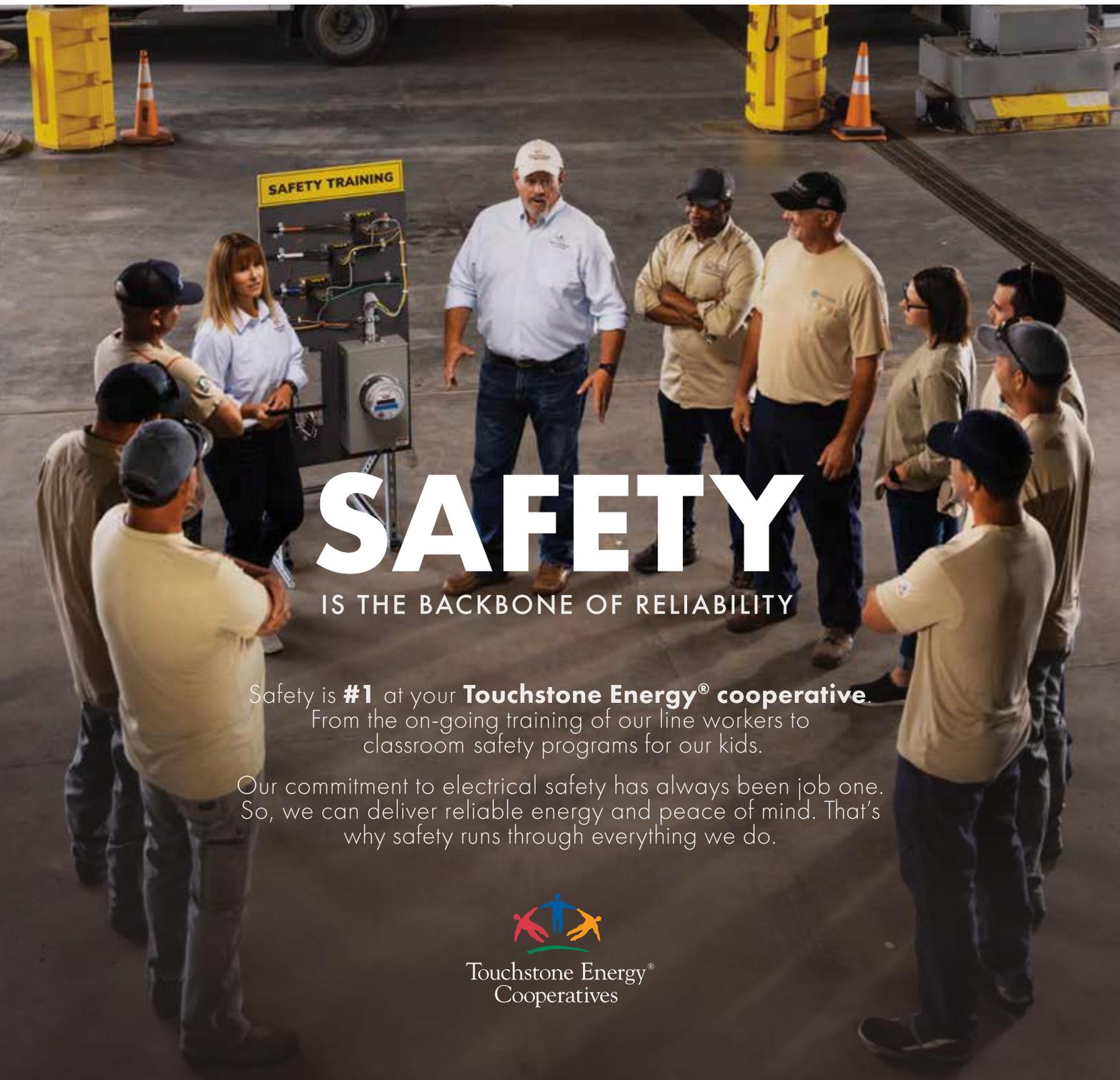
Date _____

Clip this portion of the magazine and return to Franklin REC, PO Box 437, Hampton, IA 50441 or email franklin@franklinrec.coop.

YOUR FIRE TODAY COULD BE SOMEONE'S DARKNESS TONIGHT

DO NOT BURN NEAR POWER POLES

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop



SAFETY

IS THE BACKBONE OF RELIABILITY

Safety is **#1** at your **Touchstone Energy® cooperative**.
From the on-going training of our line workers to
classroom safety programs for our kids.

Our commitment to electrical safety has always been job one.
So, we can deliver reliable energy and peace of mind. That's
why safety runs through everything we do.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives