

Thompson named general manager



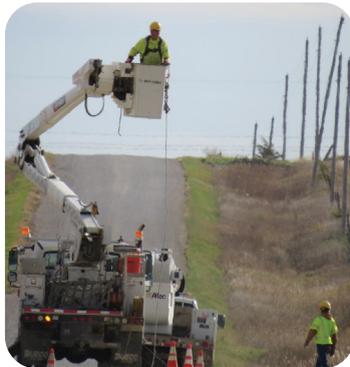
Garrett Thompson

Garrett Thompson is looking forward to all that his new position will bring as general manager of Franklin REC. “I am most looking forward to working with the employees and the board and learning the co-op world through a different lens,” he stated.

Thompson comes to Franklin REC after five years at Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Greenfield, Iowa, where he served as the chief financial officer. Prior to his tenure at Farmers, he received accounting and finance degrees from Wichita State University in Kansas. He then served in various accounting capacities for accounting firms, a trash company, and a non-profit that helped teenagers.

He credits Charlie Dunn, executive vice president and CEO of Farmers Electric, for encouraging him to consider becoming a manager and said that Dunn set a great example for him.

Welcome to Franklin REC, Garrett!



In October, Franklin REC line crews were involved in the move of a house from Swaledale onto a property on Franklin REC lines.

House moving: It's no easy task

Moving is a big job—packing and loading boxes, putting in your change of address, transferring accounts, and so on. The list is long. Imagine adding “move the house” to your to-do list.

At Franklin REC, a house move involves a lot of planning for the crews, too. As John Quasdorf, Franklin REC line superintendent, said, “When we are contacted by the mover with the height of the house and the planned route, we drive the route to see what work has to be done. The line crew will then start the prework for the move.”

The prework can consist of installing temporary guy wires or back feeding members. This work is done to limit the number of members whose power will be off during the house move and to try to ensure the actual move goes smooth.

On the day of the move, the line crew will either lift the wires for the house to pass under or remove the wires, depending on the house's height. If the wires only need to be lifted, the crew will set up on the side of the road and lift the wires as the house crosses. If wires need to be removed, one crew de-energizes the line and takes down the wires ahead of the house. A second crew then follows after the house passes, putting the wires back up. After either scenario, the line is re-energized once the house passes through. This process is repeated for every wire the house has to cross.

Although a house move may require additional planning, work, and crews, service to our members is why we are here. We are always happy to help.

Five electrical safety features to be thankful for

Let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

For your safety: Built-in devices

1. GFCIs: Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are inexpensive electrical devices installed where electrical circuits may come into contact with water.
2. AFCIs: Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are found within your electrical panel or wall receptacles. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices.
3. Circuit breakers: These boxes prevent electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with circuit breakers designed to shut off, stopping the flow of electricity.

Use them safely: Convenience items

1. Device chargers: Treat charging components with care and use them correctly.
 - Personal electronic devices should not be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
 - Do not leave cords plugged in when not charging a device. If a child or pet put the cord in their mouth, they could be burned or shocked.
 - Do not leave cords around when not in use. A toddler might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet resulting in a burn or shock.
 - Do not use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
2. Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips: Use only as a temporary fix.
 - Plug them directly into an outlet.
 - If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
 - Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged.
 - Make sure cords and strips are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratory.
 - Make sure the cord and appliance wattage ratings match.



Inspect your cords, and replace them if they are damaged.



Scholarships Available

Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients may be either first- or second-year students at Northwest Iowa Community College studying in the programs of Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Students must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Applications must be filed with Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1, 2021. For an application or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.

Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship. To qualify, the recipient must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program, a first- or second-year student at Iowa Lakes Community College, maintain 2.5 minimum GPA, and be an Iowa resident. For an application or more information, contact Alison Mason, Institutional Advancement manager, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu. Applications are due by March 1, 2021.



**Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27,
for the Thanksgiving holiday.
If you have an emergency or an outage,
don't hesitate to call us.
Our phones are answered 24/7.**

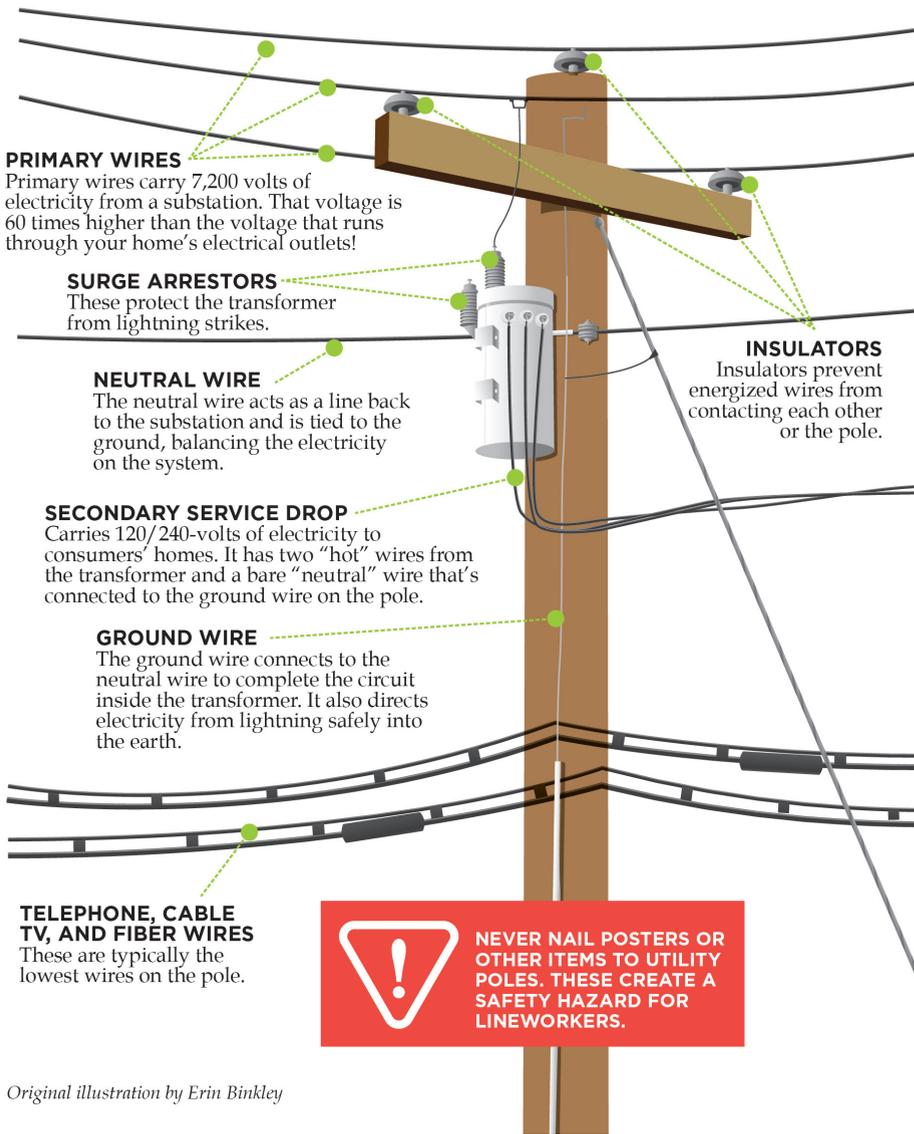


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WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley



Fight back

Scammers are targeting energy consumers, often calling to threaten to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. Or they may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit.

Never give out personal information to anyone who calls claiming to be from your utility!

Franklin REC will never call demanding immediate payment over the phone. If you get such a call, or have questions about your bill, call us.

Attempts have also been made in person and via email. If we need to replace or service equipment in your home, we will contact you in advance. Never respond to an email that claims to be from your utility that provides a link for payment or asks for personal information.

If you suspect someone is trying to scam you, hang up, delete the email, or shut the door. If you ever feel that you are in physical danger, call 911.

Contact local law enforcement if you suspect that you have been a victim of fraud.

SPARKS of news

Board room highlights

At their most recent meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Took action to add the new manager on to the cooperative accounts.
- Examined the 2021 Load Forecast Review.
- Discussed the installation of fencing and additional security cameras for the pole yard.
- Set the annual meeting date.
- Updated the patronage discount percentage for estates.
- Reviewed and accepted the yearly tax returns.
- Approved workers' compensation insurance.

INtouch® is published monthly for members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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