

# NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 09/14

18



## Loss Control Professional

Brenda Haverfield accepts her loss control professional certificate plaque from Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative's Board President Robert A. Brown.

Loss control supervisor Brenda Haverfield has completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control.

The Loss Control Internship is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association.



### Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

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Lineman Ryan Little using a fire extinguisher at a recent fire safety meeting led by Loss Control Supervisor Brenda Haverfield and Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Manager of Safety Daren Deverman.

The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), nearly 4 million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Avoiding workplace accidents avoids down time and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Earlier this year, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative was awarded the "Best Three-Year Safety Award" by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's for its outstanding safety record among the state's electric cooperatives from 2009-2013.

Brenda is one of only a few electric utility professionals in the country that will receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30 hour OSHA course, and a detailed final course project. Brenda's final course project was written on the prevention of electrical burns.

At the co-op, Brenda conducts on-site crew visits for safety, makes sure our equipment is tested regularly, and leads safety meetings for employees and the safety committee.

Loss Control participants go through four, 6-day sessions that are designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry.



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## Guaranteed Rural Housing Loans

USDA Rural Development is currently offering zero down payment option loans for single family housing in eligible rural areas. Possible applicants are typically first-time home buyers or low to moderate income borrowers.

Benefits to these loans include flexible credit, refinancing options, and a guaranteed underwriting system, which is a free online tool that allows lenders to make recommendations for loans in a short turn-around period.

Borrowers may apply through an approved lender and real estate agent of their choice. However, it's important to note that should the property fall within an eligible area, home buyers' income must not exceed the adjusted income limit in the area.

For more information, visit [rdeligibility.usda.gov](http://rdeligibility.usda.gov) or check with you local banker.



# Co-op Connections Savings

Have you used your Co-op Connections Card lately? If not, you may be missing out on some great savings. Illinois co-op members save on average a total of over \$20,000 a month on their prescription medicines.

While it is not insurance, the discount from the Connections Card can mean savings of up to 85 percent off prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. If you're interested in learning more, log on to [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Illinois Rural Electric Co-op strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values. If you don't have a card, give us a call at 1-800-468-4732.

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