

## President's Report



Josh DeWees  
President/CEO



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## Spoon River Electric line personnel compete in Lineworker's Safety Rodeo

Line personnel from Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Fourteen teams from 12 electric co-ops, one municipal electric utility, and one team of Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) linework students participated in the friendly competition. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Jared Lascelles, Tyler Girard and Louis Gray represented SREC at the rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team and five individual events: a 40-foot climb, hurt man rescue, H-structure obstacle course, a surprise written exam for the mystery event, and a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and

safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.



*From left: Lineworkers Jared Lascelles, Louis Gray & Tyler Girard represented Spoon River Electric at the 2022 AIEC Lineworker's Safety Rodeo.*

At the end of the day, the SREC team earned third place in the mystery event. Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



Our office will be closed Nov. 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving & Black Friday.

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,  
Canton, IL 61520  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
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## Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272  
Number of members served: 5,022  
Number of power poles  
in territory: 29,361

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



*New*

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# Stay safe while hunting



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 101.6 million Americans participate in wildlife-related activities each year, such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching. It is estimated that there are 11.5 million hunters and nearly 36 million anglers.

Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to 2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org).

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room.

## Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

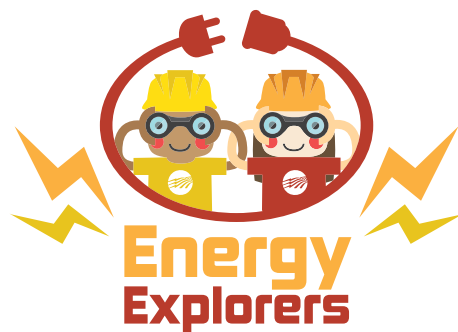
1. Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters can walk far distances when shooting and dragging an animal. Completing these activities (especially if the person is not otherwise active) can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
2. Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
3. Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
4. Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
5. Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
6. Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
7. Have a way to get in touch with the outside world. Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
8. Know the hunting area. Check national forest boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
9. Always carry a first-aid kit.
10. Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
11. Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize it or cause a fire.
12. Wear blaze orange.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Fall safety word search

Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings greater risks of home fires and electrical hazards.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



Adults should always stay in the **kitchen** while food is **cooking**.

**Smoke alarms** should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly.  
**Batteries** should be replaced every year or right away if the alarm starts to chirp.

**Candles** should never be left burning when someone isn't in the room.

Keep flammable items away from the **stove, toaster** and other cooking **appliances**.

S	M	R	A	L	A	E	K	O	M	S	E	C	A	W
S	M	C	K	J	P	M	H	G	X	V	O	B	P	S
X	E	K	A	H	O	R	I	E	O	O	M	Z	P	C
R	B	I	X	T	F	O	A	T	K	H	C	U	L	N
P	O	Y	R	Y	U	G	S	I	T	G	X	M	I	K
K	E	G	K	E	L	L	N	L	V	F	H	K	A	C
T	I	W	U	D	T	G	R	I	C	D	S	H	N	H
S	W	T	D	Q	Q	T	M	E	K	Z	E	V	C	O
M	Q	Y	C	E	R	W	A	Z	X	S	L	K	E	Q
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C	H	T	B	K	E	W	U	R	I	S	N	W	W	H
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T	O	A	S	T	E	R	O	K	F	P	C	G	D	X
O	R	N	B	U	W	J	G	D	K	E	X	V	C	L
E	I	A	U	F	Q	Y	L	U	H	F	H	F	Z	D