

acec NEWS

June 2021
Volume 23 / Issue 6

ALLAMAKEE
CLAYTON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



DO THE SUMMER SHIFT



**WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND FUN
4TH OF JULY WEEKEND!**

Our office will be **closed on MONDAY, JULY 5**
in observance of Independence Day.

To report an outage, please call **888-788-1551**.

**BOARD CANDIDATES
SELECTED**

**ACEC WELCOMES
NEW EMPLOYEE**

**3 WAYS TO SAVE
ENERGY OUTDOORS**



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

Electric Vehicle Update:

The Co-op has officially entered the world of “Electric Vehicle Ownership”. As you saw in last month’s newsletter, our Tesla Model 3 was picked up on April 30 and we have been enjoying it ever since!

Being that electricity is our business, we have been intrigued and paying attention to EV’s for the past few years. This past spring, we decided the time was right to add one to our fleet, as electric vehicle technology is constantly improving, and prices have been decreasing. We researched several models: comparing price, range, technology, safety, and availability. We settled on the Tesla as it rated high in criteria categories.

Some things we are looking forward to learning about and sharing with you are:

Range:

How far can this car be driven before charging is required? What types of things can affect a charge, using heating or air conditioning, city driving vs. interstate driving, length of trip, etc.

Charging:

How often do you have to charge? What types of chargers are out there and what is the difference? How long does it take to fully charge this car? What will it cost me? Do I need a special charger in my garage? Will I need an electrician for this?

Maintenance:

Is this vehicle as low maintenance as being touted? What, if anything, will need maintaining? Who can do maintenance/repair work if and when something goes wrong?

Drivability:

What’s it like driving this vehicle? What is the same? What is different? Does it really have features like “self-drive” and “self-park”?

Cost of Ownership:

What does an electric vehicle cost? Are insurance costs different? How will I save money? Will I have a huge electric bill from charging?

We are learning a bit more every day and are anxious to share more with you. In the coming months, be on the lookout for more information regarding the questions I listed and more! If you are interested in the idea of EV ownership, give us a call! We’d love to discuss it further with you. We’d be more than willing to set up a time for interested members to come take a look, ask questions and go for a cruise. Contact our Manager of Member Service, Ryan Wagner if this is something you would like to do.

We know that widespread EV adoption will not occur overnight. However, as I mentioned previously, electricity is our business, therefore all things affecting the power landscape are worthy of our attention. As the EV market changes, expands and improves; we want to be in the know. Being an “All Things Electricity” resource for our members and surrounding communities has and always will be important to ACEC.



Hollie McCormick

BOARD BRIEFS | May 24, 2021

- Approved a plan to seek out and appoint a Coop member to fill the vacant board seat in District C
- Approved donations for the Allamakee County Fair, the City of Elkader's 175th Celebration, and Rolinda Acre's Robotic Dairy Open House
- Reviewed the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's 2021/2022 dues budget
- Discussed plans for the Coop's September 13, 2021 Annual Meeting. We will be conducting a drive-thru meeting similar to the prior years' meeting.

SUMMER SHIFT: SMALL STEPS FOR SAVINGS

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity – whether to cool the home, turn on the lights or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative – did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

The price of electricity purchased on the grid is always changing, based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need – or demand – rises during the day, the price of electricity increases as more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses and other buildings or devices. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity.

Dairyland must ensure it has enough generation resources to cover all the electricity needs of its 24 member cooperatives – including Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative - plus an additional reserve in case demand spikes above expectations. This means investments in additional resources to cover the needs of all members. If ACEC members – along with members of Dairyland's 23 other cooperatives – shift their electricity use to different times of the day, the overall 'peak' is reduced. **6753-2**

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. The less electricity cooperative members use when prices are at their highest, the more stable Allamakee-Clayton can keep our retail rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.



TIPS

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal). Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer. A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home \$111 per year
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).

#StormSafety



3 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY OUTDOORS

The most common way to save energy during summer months is to lower your cooling costs indoors.

If you spend a lot of time outdoors, you can save energy and money by reducing your air-conditioning use inside. Setting the thermostat just a few degrees higher can make quite a difference. There are many other ways to save energy outdoors, and here are three:

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

If you have security lighting, there is a good chance you can save a little energy. Some security lights can be 500 to 1,000 watts. That is the equivalent of 40 to 80 indoor LED bulbs!

Switching to LEDs is a great strategy. Solar lights are also a good way to light walkways, a water feature or your deck without having to use power.

PUMPS AND MAINTENANCE

Many of us have one or more pumps that service our yard or are on our property. Pumps can supply water for a swimming pool, lawn and garden, or a septic system or well. It is easy to let maintenance slip, which decreases the pump's efficiency and shortens its life.

Maintaining pumps involves cleaning the filters or checking oil and belts. If you have multiple pumps and need to hire a professional for assistance, try to do all the maintenance at once to reduce the cost.

You may also want to consider replacing older pumps with energy-efficient ENERGY STAR®-rated options.

GRILLING

Using your oven can raise your kitchen's temperature as much as 10 degrees, increasing the need to run your air conditioner, so grilling outdoors is a great way to save energy.

Whichever fuel type you choose, you can save energy by barbecuing—keeping the lid closed during cooking—rather than grilling—cooking with the lid off at higher heat

We hope these ideas help you enjoy your outdoor space this summer and save energy!

Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency write on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS... DOWNLOAD THE SMART-HUB APP TODAY!

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account easy:

- Pay your bill
- Set up recurring payments
- View billing history/energy use
- Go green with paperless billing

It is available **for free** in the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet), or by scanning the QR codes below.

Android Users



iOS Users



The Co-op also has a 24/7 Secure Pay-By-Phone Call 833-284-5051

THANK YOU TO THE 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

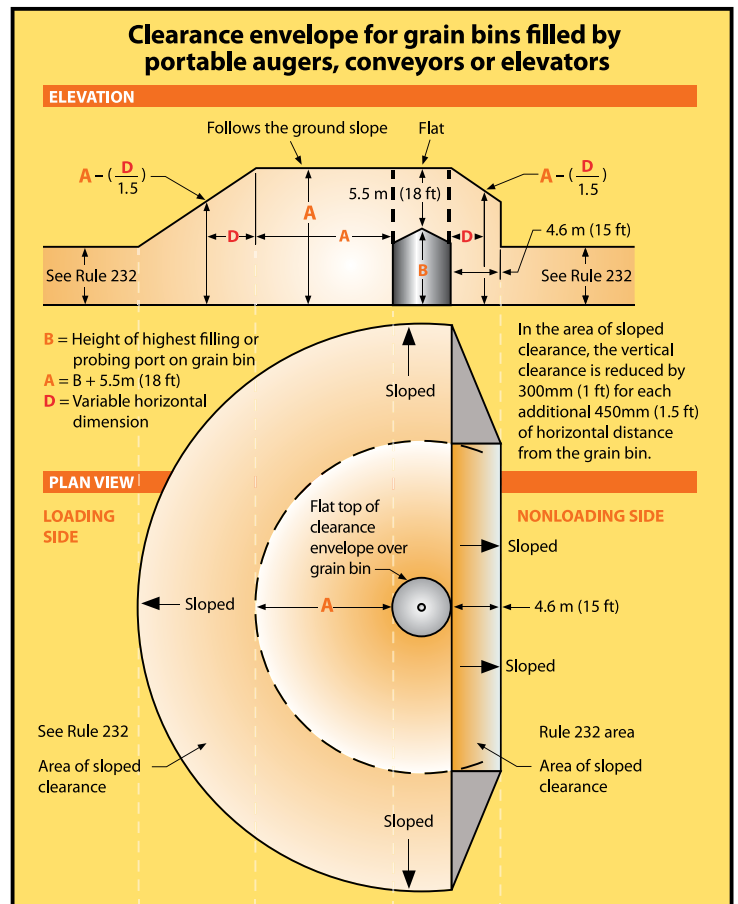
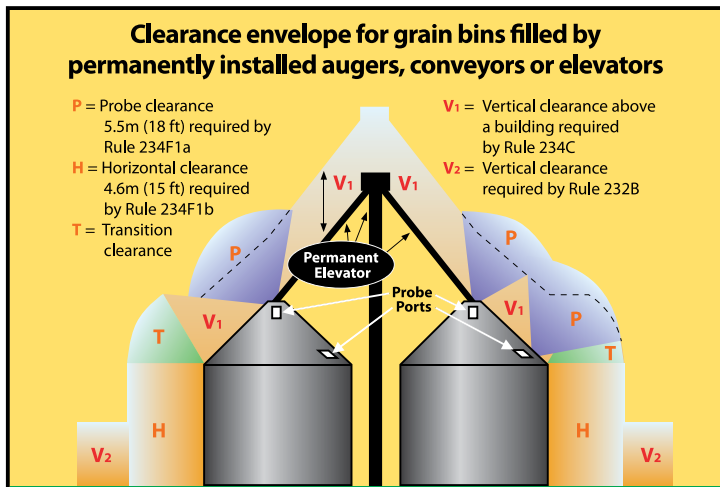
The ACEC Board of Directors selected members from their Board Districts to serve on the Nominating Committee during their May board meeting. On June 11, 2021, the committee met and reviewed nominations for the board positions up for election. Candidates have been placed on the ballot and will be voted on by the members of the Cooperative. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for supporting our democratic governance.



The Nominating Committee selected candidates to run for the board at its meeting held on June 11th. Pictured l-r: Front Row: Erik Helgerson-Vice Chairperson, Dr. Jane Hasek-Secretary, and Gary Kolsrud. Back Row: Nicholas Meyer, Stefanie Perkins, Lana Strein, Mike Oberbroeckling, Marcia Kruse, and Leslie Henkes-Chairperson.

Grain Bin Notice

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact the Cooperative. Allamakee-Clayton will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators. To the bottom and right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. The Cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please contact ACEC. 2748-10



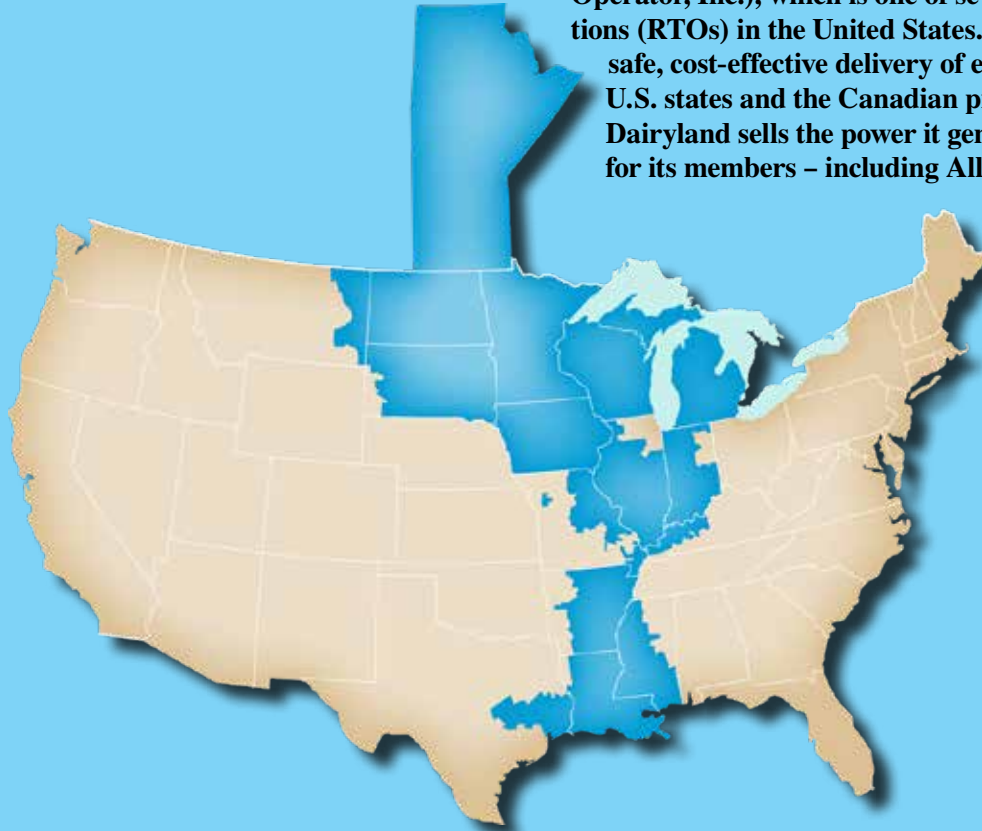
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Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative is a distribution cooperative that receives power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in La Crosse, Wis. ACEC is a member-owner of Dairyland, just like the Cooperative's members are member-owners of their local electric cooperative. As a G&T cooperative, Dairyland is part of the MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.), which is one of seven regional transmission organizations (RTOs) in the United States. MISO was created in 1998 to provide safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Through MISO, Dairyland sells the power it generates and purchases power it needs for its members – including Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative.



Employees in Dairyland's System Operations Center balance members' electricity needs against MISO's pricing for electricity. If members can do the Summer Shift and move unnecessary electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., electricity demand during times of peak pricing within the MISO system can be reduced, thus keeping overall electricity rates stable and affordable. 857-5

With headquarters in Carmel, Ind., more information on MISO can be found online at www.miso.org.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



Asparagus

HAM AND ASPARAGUS FETTUCCHINE

12 ounces dry fettuccine noodles
8 ounces fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
½ c. butter
2 cups heavy cream
¾ c. grated Parmesan cheese
¼ tsp. garlic powder
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
1 pinch cayenne pepper
½ lb. cooked ham, diced

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente. Stir asparagus into pot in the last five minutes of cooking; drain.

While pasta is cooking, heat butter and cream in a medium saucepan over medium heat. When mixture begins to bubble, stir in Parmesan, garlic powder, pepper, and cayenne. Continue cooking until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally. Stir in ham and heat through. Toss pasta and asparagus with sauce and serve immediately. Serves 6. (Recipe from allrecipes.com)

Carol Deering, Postville

CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP

1 med. onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
3 c. fresh asparagus, cut into 1" pieces
2½ c. chicken broth (I use water plus 1 rounded Tablespoon of Better than Bouillon Roasted Chicken Base)
⅛ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (might try less at first)
4 oz. fat-free cream cheese, softened
2 T. light sour cream
1 tsp. dill weed

In large saucepan, coated with nonstick spray (or a little butter), sauté onion and garlic till tender. (As you do not want to overbrown the garlic, it might be best to cook the onion a while first). Add asparagus, broth, and pepper flakes. Simmer 10 to 15 minutes. Add cream cheese, sour cream and dill weed. (I like to mix some of the broth with the cream cheese and sour cream, then add back to the rest of soup. An immersion blender works well for this.)

This is a favorite year-round for us; I use frozen asparagus when not in season. Makes four servings.

Pat & Veryl Burghardt, Sumner

Have an idea for a recipe topic? Send it our way!

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or jmcintyre@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed.

Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before intended publication.

July — OUTDOOR GRILLING RECIPES
September — CROCK POT DIPS
October — LOOSE MEAT SANDWICHES



THE COOPERATIVE'S SKYWAYS DEPARTMENT WELCOMES A NEW EMPLOYEE

A new face is among the Co-op team since Kelly Blockhus joined the Skyways Department last month. Kelly joined the team on May 17, 2021 as a Broadband Technology Specialist. He is responsible for installing, servicing, and troubleshooting Fiber Optic, Wireless, High-Speed Data Networks, VOIP Digital Phone service, and Satellite Internet at homes and businesses. Kelly joins us after 4 and ½ years with Alpine Communications.

He resides in Elgin with his wife, LeAnn, a homemaker, and their four boys, ages 16, 12, 11, and 9.

In his free time, Kelly enjoys spending time with the family. He says his boys enjoy working on vehicles, with their current project being an 88 Jeep Wrangler. They also enjoy baseball and video games.

With the Skyways business growing and the Cooperative's current fiber projects in Waukon, Kelly has joined the team of Matt Marting, Luke Hackman, and Carol Griebenow at a much-needed time.

Welcome, Kelly; we're happy you are here!

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Three *Service Location* numbers are hidden within the text of this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – all three are worth a **\$5.00 bill credit** if found. To claim the credit, the number must be yours and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS

800-864-1611

WEBSITE

acrec.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

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HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager

DAVID DECKER, Director, Finance & Administrative Services

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JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information Technology

JENNY McINTYRE, Manager, Marketing & Communications

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RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



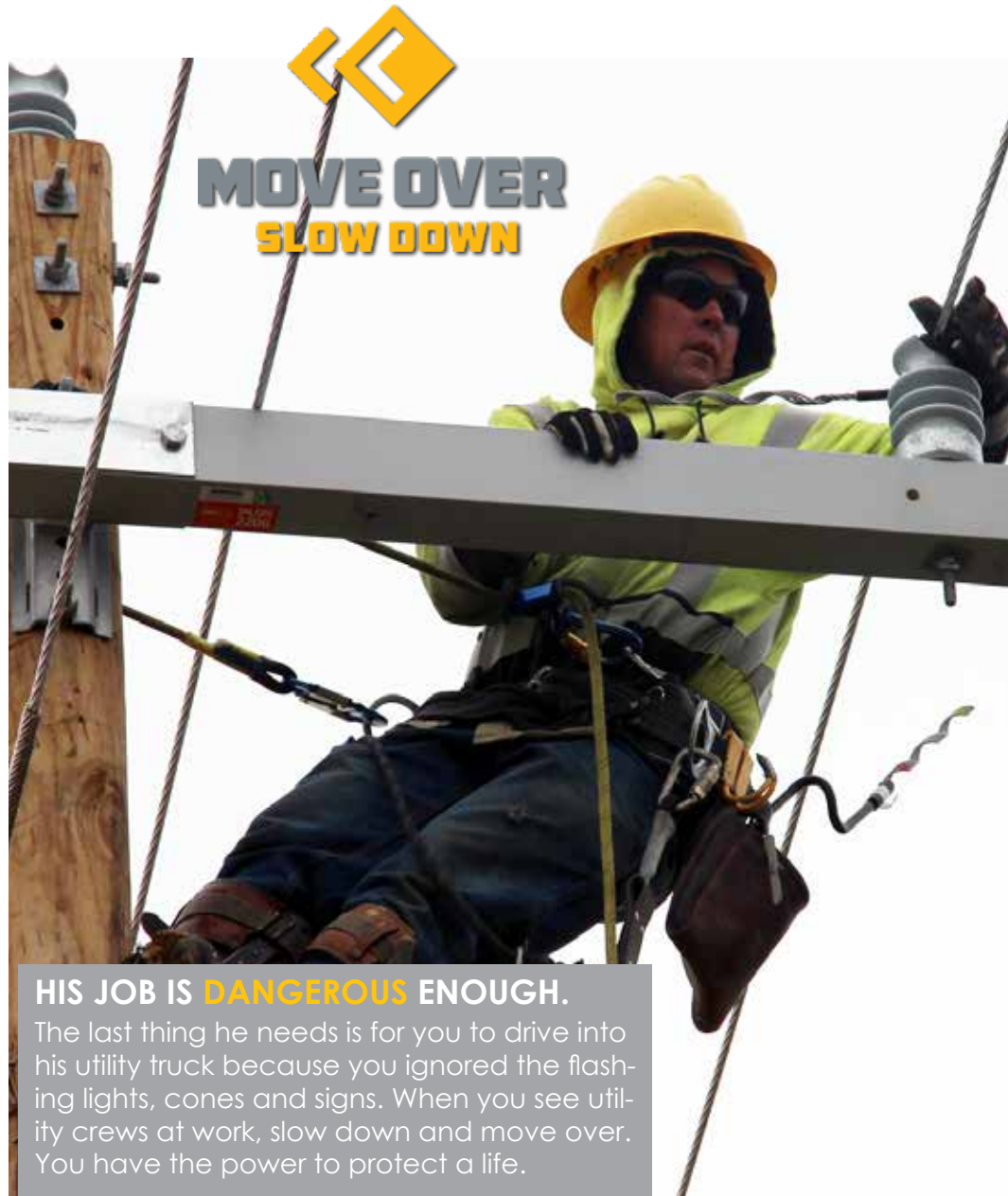
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HIS JOB IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH.

The last thing he needs is for you to drive into his utility truck because you ignored the flashing lights, cones and signs. When you see utility crews at work, slow down and move over. You have the power to protect a life.



STAY CONNECTED

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

