

FEC® POWER

Source

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Harvest Season Safety

Avoid Electrical Hazards

The rush to harvest can result in agricultural workers and farmers working extra-long days with little sleep, which can impair judgment and allow them to forget necessary precautions. Power lines can pose a major hazard for farmers.

Before working in a field or around shops or grain bins, always take the time to note the locations of power lines so that you can make sure to remain a safe distance from them.

- To stay safe around overhead powerlines, we urge farm operators and workers to:
 - Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near powerlines.
 - Use care when raising augers or the beds of grain trucks around powerlines.
 - Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines – at all times, in all directions.
 - Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
 - Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
 - Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
 - If a powerline is sagging or low, call Farmers' Electric immediately.
 - If contact is made with a powerline, remember that it is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Also, make sure to warn others to stay away and call Farmers' Electric and 911 immediately.
 - The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, avoiding touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" away.



- If you see someone's equipment in contact with a powerline, the best help you can give is from a safe distance away. Make sure to yell out to, signal to, or call the equipment operator to make sure they remain in vehicle until it is safe to exit. Remember, notify the cooperative immediately.

Here are a few harvest safety thoughts that don't involve powerlines:

- Be Organized – Maintain equipment and have all owner and operator manuals on-hand. Have an electric check of facility including wiring and electrical boxes. Provide proper safety training for employees and family. Before each task, do a safety walk-through making sure any potential hazards are taken care of and procedures and equipment are in place in case an incident occurs such as first aid kits and fire extinguishers.
- Focus on efficiency – Be sure grain-receiving equipment, bin aeration, and the grain dryers are clean and in good working order.
- Know your crop and equipment – Keep in mind both quantity and quality, stay in touch with local grain elevators for grain-marketing opportunities. Properly care for combines and be aware of other farm equipment around you. Know your field and alert others of any potential hazards such as erosion or washouts.
- Use caution with farm vehicles on public roads – Display the "Slow Moving Vehicle" (SMV) emblem on all off-road vehicles. Use proper vehicle lighting and flashers. Also, don't forget to check all hitches. Finally, be sure to understand and comply with law regarding headlights, taillights, and reflectors.

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Message from the CEO....



Antonio Sanchez, Jr., CEO

Future Energy Plans Need to Be Realistic and Affordable

Today's news, with regard to the energy sector, seems to be focused on carbon emission reductions and new, green power generation. The recent Supreme Court's decision that restricted future federal regulation of carbon emissions from power plants has really thrown a wrench in Biden's 2035 CO2 goal of a zero-carbon electricity grid and a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. Studies have concluded that in order to hit the Biden target, annual installation of new wind and solar generation would

have to increase from two to seven times historical levels, adding between 29 gigawatts and 91 gigawatts per year. These studies also suggest that all, or nearly all, U.S. coal-fired power plants would have to be closed and large-scale investments in new pipeline and underground storage infrastructure would be required to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions from gas-fired plants. On June 30th, New Mexico's Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham posted on her Facebook page that, "state-level policies have never been more important, and my administration has already demonstrated that leadership..." She was criticizing the Supreme Court's decision that was made public earlier that day.

As you may recall, in 2019, the Energy Transition Act was enacted following the recent New Mexico legislative session. Within this Act, generation and transmission (G&T) entities that provide power to electric cooperatives were made responsible for meeting requirements and targets for all energy supplied them. The targets and requirements for renewable energy and zero carbon resources as a percentage of the distribution cooperative's total retail sales in New Mexico are as follows: 1) 40% by January 1, 2025; 2) 50% by January 1, 2030; 3) a target of achieving the zero-carbon resource standard by January 1, 2050, composed of at least 80% renewable energy; provided that achieving the target is technically feasible, service is reliable and shall remain affordable. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is Farmers' Electric Cooperative's (FEC) G&T. WFEC has almost reached the 2025 target of 40%. At year-end 2021, they were providing FEC with 35% renewable energy.

Our nation and our state have the desire to create a green energy economy. Electric utilities are not opposed to this as long as the plan on getting there is realistic and affordable. Technology is advancing to the point that wind generators are in abundance and solar systems continue to be deployed. In order to build-up resilience, storage must catch-up. This is the generation component of the end-goal. G&T's are working to reduce carbon generation and planning to increase green generation. The thing to keep in mind is that there must be a way to get this more abundant, green generation from the source to the distributor which implies



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We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

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the need for additional transmission infrastructure. This all takes time and quite frankly, a lot of money. This cannot be done overnight and in order to remain reliable, fossil fuel generation is necessary. Fossil fuel generation is dispatchable meaning it can be “turned-on” whether the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. Until we’ve created a way to guarantee reliability, our power generation mix must consist of a combination of fossil fuel and renewables.

At the end of the day, FEC will work to comply with all the rules and regulations that both the federal and state governments require. Our focus is on remaining safe, reliable and affordable. We will continue to work closely with our G&T during strategic planning sessions regarding future generation projects and ensuring compliance with the New Mexico ETA.

Until next time,

Antonio Sanchez, Jr.

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STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.



Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.



Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first aid kit.



Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Farmers’ Electric Cooperative 

Related Story

Too Close for Comfort



Damaged pole found in a freshly plowed field

Another thing to be aware of while plowing, harvesting, or working a field in any way is our poles. We understand farmers want the most out of their crops but, planting right up against our poles can be a real hazard. Not only can striking or swiping a pole do serious damage to an implement, it could very well damage our pole beyond repair.

Unfortunately, power poles, particularly large transmission poles, have not been

spared as part of the supply chain issues facing common goods throughout the U.S. over the last couple of years. There appears no end in sight for extended lead times on many of the supplies we use to help keep the lights on. Losing just one transmission pole could have a domino effect that could keep power off to many members for quite a while.

The best and safest policy is to practice avoidance. Please, we understand your temptation to squeeze the most out of your crops but, in the long run, being responsible for damaging a pole or any other FEC equipment could prove very costly to all.

Coming to a Smart Phone Near You!

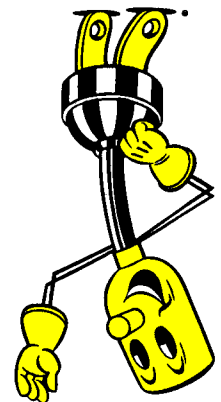
Be on the lookout for our new FECNM mobile app! It will be going live very soon! Here are some of the new features you can expect:

- A new option, **New User**, has been added to the menu on the login screen.
- You now have an assortment of electric utility images from which to choose that you can set as the background wallpaper for the App's login screen.
- The **Graphical User Interface (GUI)** has been redesigned to improve overall customer experience.
- A new icon, **Account List**, has been added to allow members to switch between accounts quickly and easily.
- A new button, **Take Photo**, has been added to the

Credit Card tab of the **Payment Profile page**.

- A new menu option, **Fingerprint (Android) or Touch ID (iOS)**, has been added to the **My Account menu**.
- A new menu option, **Member Communications**, has been added to the **My Account menu**.
- A new menu option, **View Pledges**, has been added to the **My Usage menu**.

Go to www.fecnm.org/new-fecnm-mobile-app to find these and other new and improved features! Also, our "new" **Member Portal** can be found at www.fecnm.org/pay-your-bill



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