

The Current flow

JUNE 2016

CREA

A SAFETY NEWS AND SAFETY INFORMATION PUBLICATION OF THE CREA LOSS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

CREA Loss Control Seminar

Have you registered for the 2016 Loss Control Seminar? It will be July 19 and 20 at Tri-State Generation and Transmission's headquarters, 1100 W. 116th Ave., Westminster. Send your registration information to Angelea Meyer at ameyer@coloradorea.org.

The program will include a variety of industry speakers and an awards dinner:

TUESDAY, JULY 19

- 7am Breakfast
- 8am Welcome
- 8:30am Fallen Lineman Association, Mike Boyd
- 9:30am Break
- 9:45 am Safety coordinator meeting
- Noon Lunch
- 1pm 45-minute breakout rotation
 - Federated Insurance – reporting on accidents around the nation
 - SOL Consulting – Substation inventories, Scott Empe
 - National Mutual Aid Registry – how to be registered nationally
 - Preferred Sales
- 2:30pm Break
- 2:45pm 45-minute breakout – rotation continues
- 4:15pm Adjourn
- 5:30pm Awards dinner

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

- 7am Breakfast
- 8am Safety coordinator meeting
- 9:15am Safety idea presentation
- 9:45am Break
- 10am Response to Active Shooter Events course, Frank Whitesides
This civilian course provides strategies, guidance and a plan for surviving an active shooter event.
- Noon Lunch
- 1pm Response to Active Shooter Events course continues
- 3pm Break
- 3:15pm Demonstration of FR versus traditional clothing, HALO
- 4pm Adjourn

Fallen Lineman Organization

Mike Boyd of the national Fallen Lineman Organization will be one of the speakers at the July Loss Control Seminar. He will introduce the organization dedicated to helping any electrical line worker who is severely injured or killed on the job. The group strives to be a central location for the families of all fallen linemen to find moral and financial support. The organization is also working on a national public memorial to recognize the lineman who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



ONSITE OBSERVATION: AN INSPECTION OR AN AUDIT?

During a summary report at a closing conference, interviews with employees, walk-throughs of facilities and crew visits, it's not unusual to hear both inspection and audit used interchangeably. However, there is a certain place and time where they are very different with different activities and different goals.



Randy Westberg

To "inspect" means to review, to examine carefully and critically for flaws and deficiencies. In our safety world, we will evaluate the physical conditions of a workplace looking for hazards presented by the equipment and materials.

To "audit" means to evaluate a process to confirm and verify it is performing properly, it is accomplishing what is expected. If there is a deficiency, then we should adjust accordingly.

For example:

- An inspection of a fleet maintenance shop finds a bench grinder installed on a work bench. Appropriate eyewear is required for operation of the equipment. The shop supervisor states there is a process for personal protection equipment use and the eyewear is supplied and available.
- An audit of this process finds the eyewear is stored in a tool room 50 feet away, not in close proximity to the bench grinder.

The key differences between the two terms to remember when assisting with an onsite observation is that an inspection will look at what the conditions are; an audit will evaluate how the co-op is doing with its actual performances.

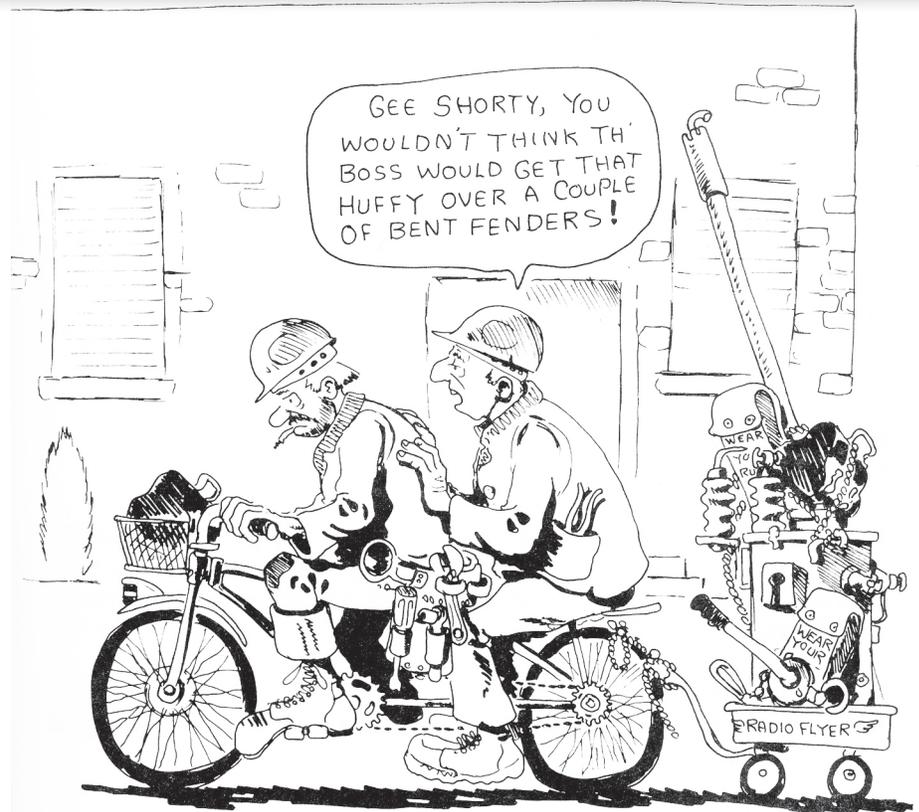
Randy Westberg



New Safe Electricity DVD Shares Important Message for Line Crews

In 2004 Kenny Kieffer was in an electrical accident while on the job as a lineman. His crew was repairing a downed line, when a breaker malfunctioned and sent 7,200 volts of electricity down the wire. Kenny lost his arm in the accident, but he also lost much more—his best friend and co-worker, Rick. Kenny is now electrical superintendent and safety manager at his utility and works hard to keep his linemen safe. He wants to help prevent others from having to go through an experience like his. His story has been captured on the latest DVD from Safe Electricity.

Your electric co-op has access to Kenny's story and all of the Safe Electricity materials through CREA's membership in the organization. Your co-op has received a copy of the safety DVD with Kenny's story on it and CREA's Loss Control staff also all have copies of the DVD or you can find the videos at safeelectricity.org under the Professional/Internal Safety link. Share this story with your employees.



Information from the book "A Guide to Linework Plus Clumsums Illustrated" by Electric Power Utilities Training Division, Texas Engineering Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System Illustration by Dale Hammond

Watch for Warning Signs

You recognize the standard traffic signals and warnings, but do you know the warning signs of potential equipment failure?

Proper maintenance and inspection of vehicles, aerial devices and digger derricks is as vital to your safety as regular inspection of hot sticks and rubber gloves. Make vehicle and equipment inspections part of your daily schedule. Use this checklist to help with those inspections:

Vehicle inspection:

- brakes
- brake fluid
- windshield
- wipers
- washer fluid
- lights
- signals
- reflectors
- steering
- steering fluid
- engine oil
- battery (water)
- coolant
- hoses
- belts

Equipment inspection (visual):

- leaks
- structural damage
- missing panels
- hydraulic hoses and fittings
- delamination of fiberglass
- missing or damaged components
- bucket joint condition
- reservoir (hydraulic fluid)

Equipment inspection (operational):

- normal operation
- squeaking/strange noises
- sticking control handles
- jerking boom
- excess turntable sway
- slow operation
- normal operating pressures
- leaks

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org

Co-op Employee Spotlight



Clay Sharp

ready to break out as a journeyman in August of the same

As a way to learn from each other and get to know more of the crews in the electric co-op community across Colorado, the CREA Loss Control Department is adding an employee spotlight to this quarterly newsletter. This month, the focus is on Clay Sharp of Poudre Valley REA in Fort Collins.

Clay started with PVREA in April of 2014 as an apprentice lineman

year. While being interviewed by CREA's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program team, Clay was able to provide great answers when questioned about proper use and care of his rubber goods, proper care of his tools, and what to do in an emergency when out with his crew.

When asked about the proper steps for installing personal ground, equipment grounding and/or barricading, clearances, and the utility's safe work practices his knowledge was spot on. "You could tell Clay will go on to be a lifelong learner, and an employee that PVREA can be proud of," said Randy Westberg, CREA Loss Control director. "Great job Clay!"



Co-op Mechanics Share Learning

Nearly 20 mechanics from 13 of Colorado's electric co-ops participated in the May 24 and 25 CREA Mechanics Conference at Holy Cross Electric in Glenwood Springs.

The group had training on equipment diagnostics and on air brakes, as well as reviewing communication and people skills. However, for several of those attending, the most beneficial part of the two-day session was the round table discussion where issues common to many of the co-ops were reviewed and possible solutions were shared.



CREA Loss Control Department *Schedule*

Randy Westberg
loss control director

Visiting co-ops for RESAP

Dan Whitesides
job training and safety instructor

6/20 - 6/24 SDCEA
6/27 - 7/1 Vacation
7/11 - 7/15 DMEA
7/18 - 7/21 Loss Control Seminar
7/25 - 7/29 GCEA
8/1 - 8/5 MVEA
8/21 - 8/25 NUTSEA Conference

Curt Graham
job training and safety instructor

6/20 - 6/24 HEA
6/27 - 6/30 KCEA
7/5 - 7/7 CREA
7/11 - 7/14 YVEA
7/18 - 7/21 Loss Control Seminar
7/25 - 7/29 WREA
8/1 - 8/4 YW
8/8 - 8/11 PVREA
8/21 - 8/25 NUTSEA Conference

Angelea Meyer
risk management coordinator

6/20 - 6/24 SDCEA
6/28 MCREA
7/13 - 7/15 SMPA
7/18 - 7/21 Loss Control Seminar
8/21 - 8/25 NUTSEA Conference

Mesa Hotline School

CREA's Loss Control Department staff attended the Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction at various times during the May 2-5 and May 9-12 sessions. Staff members provided several trainings. This year there were 501 students representing 17 states at the school.



Bright Idea for You



Pad Mount Transformer Sac

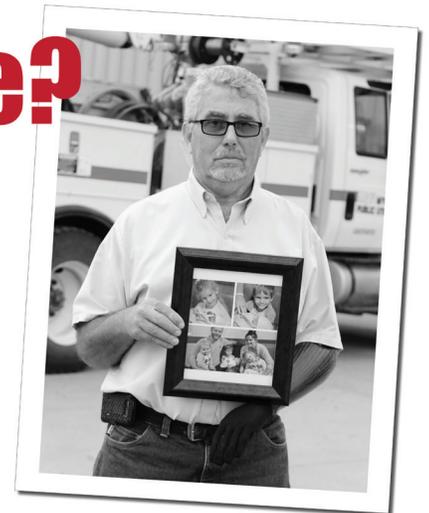
Mountain Parks Electric Association uses a Pad Mount Transformer Sac made by ANDAX as a containment for leaks and spills when a transfer pad mounted transformer needs to be transported.

This bag opens flat. Simply lift the transformer a few inches off the ground, slip the bag under the pad mount and then pull it up and around the transformer. The containment bag keeps the transformer oil contained while transporting the unit back to the shop for repair or replacement.

Why do you work **safe?**

"Think about being safe for your children and your families."

- Kenny Kieffer,
Electrical Supt. & Safety Mgr.
electrical accident survivor



"Learning from what could have happened far outweighs learning from what did happen."

Share a NEAR-MISS Incident at:
www.federatedrural.com/near-miss

