

The Current flow

MARCH 2016



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

United Linemen Wear Yellow

Safety and visibility a major key to switch

CREA would like to remind everyone that when you are completing the combined Motor Carrier Identification Report and Hm Permit application (MCS-150B), you will want to check "No" where it states "Intrastate Only."

There has been some discussion around the state on which box to check. You will need Interstate capability if your service territory stretches across the state line, and you need Interstate capability if your co-op volunteers any crews/trucks/equipment as mutual aid assistance to other states for storm outage repairs.

Therefore, you want to mark the DOT cards "No" where it states "Intrastate Only."

Also, if you list your co-op as "DOT Interstate," you will be contacted by DOT/FMCSA to comply with MCS-150B regulations. These basically require that a federal interstate commerce tax be levied whenever one of your trucks/trailers (CMVs) crosses a state line. MCS-150 filing is usually filed in March every other year. Visit the following URL for complete step-by-step instructions on filing, and where you can go to get additional help and information: <http://1.usa.gov/20pkyQL>



**APRIL 11, 2016 is
NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.**

#thankalineman



As Baby Boomers continue to retire in record numbers, I am finding that shifts in our safety leadership and changes in positions are taking place in many of our co-ops.

The new leaders are embracing the many challenges facing them, including reviewing just about everything that the new job encompasses and the safety culture of their co-op. However many new employees are finding there are a growing list of tasks that they weren't aware they were actually responsible for. Included on this emergent list are things like DOT file management, hazard communication, specifically "blood borne pathogen" requirements, SDS tracking and employee training requirements. And there is no "cheat sheet" that includes everything needed to be the perfect safety professional. Luckily, CREA is here to help.

Our mission in the CREA Loss Control Department is to assist the cooperatives in preventing injuries, saving lives and complying with governmental regulations. This means the LC team works with the cooperatives helping to keep them current on safety and regulatory compliance requirements on local, state and federal levels.

At CREA we are not limited to safety and training presentations; we can also provide certifications, specialized trainings, inspections, testing, audits of SDS or DOT, RESAP, documented formal crew observations and incident investigation assistance.

We are here for you. Don't hesitate to connect with me, or any one of the LC team members, if you have questions on the services we provide.

Randy Westberg



Randy Westberg



POLE TOP RESCUE

1. Survey the situation:
 - Call to the victim
 - Make the “mayday” call
 - Be sure the victim is clear from contact
2. Climb the pole (wearing rubber gloves)
3. Handline method:
 - Make one revolution with handline on crossarm. (A screwdriver or hardware can be used if crossarm is not available.)
 - Tie handline to victim (under arms) using secure knot.
 - Cut victim’s safety.
 - Guide victim to ground.
4. Begin CPR/first aid procedures.

SECONDS COUNT!
PRACTICE – PRACTICE – PRACTICE

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

Operations & Engineering Conference April 4–7 • Montrose

Holiday Inn Express – Conference & Lodging
Montrose Pavilion & Events Center – Vendor Show

Monday, April 4

- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.Trap Shoot — Delta Trap Club
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.Golf Scramble – Bridges Golf and Country Club
- 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.Conference Registration
- 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.Casino Night and Corn Hole Tournament

Tuesday, April 5

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.Opening Ceremonies, Welcome
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.Keynote Speaker – Jeff “Odi” Espenship
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.Break
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.Operations: Community Partnerships with LED Street Lights
 Engineering: The Evolving Grid: DC and Storage
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.Group Session – 600 amp UG Design Best Practices
- 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.Vendor Show
- 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.Banquet, Entertainment & Prize Raffle

Wednesday, April 6

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.Group Session – Impacts of Utilities due to
 Legalized Marijuana
- 8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.Break
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.Group Session – Follow-up Discussion with Q&A
- 9:50 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.Operations: Unleash Your Potential through Databases
 Engineering: The Evolving Grid: Distributed Energy Resources
- 10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.Break
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.Operations: Round Table Discussion
 Engineering: Round Table Discussion
- 1:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.Field Trips to South Canal hydroelectric facilities;
 Marrow Point Power Plant; Black Canyon of the
 Gunnison National Park

Thursday, April 7

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.Business Meeting
- 8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.Break
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.RUS Update & CREA Loss Control Update & NRECA Update
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.Break
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.Utility Group Round Table
- 11:30 a.m.Adjourn

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org

A Culture of Safety Can't Exist in Silence

In September 2015, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange launched a national near-miss reporting program with the goal of capturing information that at present is not being reported. Your local co-op and CREA will have access to this important data for analysis that can be used for the purpose of tailoring training programs to prevent future incidents.

Recognizing and reporting a near-miss or a "close call" can make a difference to the safety of all employees at your system. Conventional safety analysis focused on scrutinizing the accident is important and should not be overlooked; however, it does not address the close calls that can lead to severe accidents. An event that may ultimately result in an injury or damage was experi-

enced, it may not have been investigated.

At a recent safety meeting Corey Parr, vice president of safety & loss prevention for Federated, stated, "We're not just trying to speculate where a system might have an incident, but to give you documented facts that have been supplied by your employees and others across the country to prevent the nest incident."

Sharing a near-miss or a "close call" can provide key information needed to develop training that can prevent an accident in the future. CREA joins Federated in asking for your support. Please share any near-miss experiences by going online at www.federatedrural.com/near-miss and completing a report each time a near-miss occurs.

A Culture of Safety Can't Exist in Silence

"It was a typical afternoon, we had one pole left to set, Tim pulled the auger out after digging the hole and I connected the sling to the auger and walked to the back of the truck. I was thinking about the weekend as I walked from behind the truck and then, BAM! Just as I came from behind the truck, the sling used to stow the auger broke and the auger swung right past me. My lucky day! Tim lowered the boom and the auger to the ground immediately and we replaced the sling. I could have been seriously injured if not for blind luck. Hmm, I wonder if I should report this?"

**Share a NEAR-MISS Incident
for Safety's Sake at:**

www.federatedrural.com/near-miss



FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC
INSURANCE EXCHANGE

CREA Loss Control Department *Schedule*

Randy Westberg
loss control director

3/21 Managers – Board meetings
3/28 Yampa Valley
4/4 O&E Conference
4/10 SULU Training Indiana
4/18 RESAP
4/24 Spring RESAP Adm. mtg.
5/1 – 5/13 MESA Hot Line School
5/16 RESAP
5/23 Mechanics Conf.
5/25 CREA Board Meeting
6/13 RESAP
6/20 RESAP

Dan Whitesides
job training and safety instructor

3/22 Vacation
3/28 SLVREC
4/4 O&E conference
4/11 GVP
4/18 SIEA
4/25 GCEA
5/2 EEA
5/9 MESA Hot Line School
5/16 DMEA
5/23 MVEA

Curt Graham
job training and safety instructor

3/22 CREA
3/28 Vacation
4/4 O&E conference
4/11 UPI
4/18 WREA
4/25 YW
5/2 MESA Hot Line School
5/9 PVREA
5/16 MCREA
5/23 MPEI
6/6 HCE
6/13 SECPA
6/27 KCEA

Angelea Meyer
risk management coordinator

3/30 SLVREC
4/4 O&E Conference
4/11 CLCP Training
4/18 RESAP
4/25 HCE
4/27 MPEI
5/5 SECPA
5/16 PVREA
6/13 RESAP
6/20 RESAP



Bright Idea for You



Fire (Extinguisher) Protection

Mountain View Electric Association has implemented durable, red covers for their vehicle fire extinguishers. Before the covers were added, the fire extinguishers, like the trucks they ride on, got covered in mud, slush and salt through the seasons. This can affect how they work. Problem solved with the unique covers the co-op had custom made by D&C's Bags and More. They fit perfectly and are easy to put on and take off.

CREA applauds this kind of proactive approach to protecting expensive equipment. For information about these fire extinguisher covers and other specialty products for safety equipment, contact D&C's Bags and More and Debbie Osban at 719-337-7449 or dandcbags@gmail.com.



New Testing Equipment Benefits Co-ops Statewide

CREA's Loss Control Department has purchased a new di-electric boom tester from the VON Corporation so that both job training and safety instructors have a test unit.

These testers allow CREA's staff to check the booms on co-op bucket trucks and diggers to make sure there is no electricity "tracking" where it shouldn't, where it could become a problem. These tests with the new equipment are verifiable tests similar those done by contract companies who have performed these tests for co-ops in the past.

This new tester can put up to 100,000 direct current volts on a boom so that each vehicle is tested with the correct voltage for its classification. Most of the trucks at CREA member co-ops are Class C units so the upper boom is tested at 56 kV and the lower boom at 50 kV. Each test is done for a three-minute period and the microamp leakage is monitored for the length of the test to determine if the boom passes or fails.

On the bucket trucks the upper and lower booms, the jib arm and the hydraulic system are tested. The fiberglass boom on the digger units is also tested.

At this time CREA is only doing the boom tests so the staff can get to all of the co-ops once in a 12-month period with one of the two testers to help comply with RESAP requirements.

Job Training and Safety Instructor Curt Graham has received training on the unit in Birmingham, Alabama. He has already tested the trucks at Morgan County REA and Mountain Parks Electric.

Job Training and Safety Instructor Dan Whitesides continues using his tester with the co-ops he serves.