

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

AUGUST 2017

Don't put **safety** on autopilot.

PHOTO BY LIZA KESSEL

What's inside:

If you plan to harvest using GPS, pay close attention to power lines and poles. See C8 for information.

- **Linemen attend trench box safety training**
- **Manager Baumgartner continues co-op journey**
- **Capital credit claims list**
- **Danger: GPS and electrical infrastructure**

Shared training and ownership broadens partnerships, cost-savings

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



*More than 25 employees from Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives, 3C Construction and Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative attended the safety training and learned how to assemble the trench box. After the training, Roughrider Line Superintendent Tim Ridl said the Roughrider linemen who attended gave positive feedback and will now guide their fellow linemen in how to use the box. Roughrider employees featured in this photo include Journeyman Lineman **Russell Walters** and Working Foreman **Billy Kummer**.*

Some Roughrider Electric Cooperative linemen attended trench box safety training this spring in a pole yard near New England, including Dickinson employees Billy Kummer, Shawn Olson, Tyler Schlosser and Mike Steier, and Hazen employees Tanner Goetz and Russ Walters. In total, more than 25 employees from Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives, 3C Construction and Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative attended and learned how to assemble an aluminum box, that when lowered into the ground, will protect the worker from injury if the dirt wall collapses and fills the hole.

When linemen dig a hole 4 feet or deeper to splice underground cable,



Prior to installation, Slope Line Technician **Craig Turner** (left) helped give an overview on trench box assembly and use.

they are required to “shore,” or remove the dirt and set the spill pile to the side. Then, they “bench” the hole by digging as wide as they do deep, and slope the trench to take away the edge. When confined spaces, ground conditions or other utility lines in the immediate area prevent the required excavation, the trench box must also be used.

“That’s our protection. It acts as a barrier, in case something would cave,” says Tim Ridl, Roughrider’s line superintendent. He notes the sandy soils of southwest North Dakota make this tool practical and useful.

Roughrider Electric helped purchase the box after some linemen were discussing situations where they needed to dig deeper than four feet in hard areas that required more sloping. To ensure a safe work environment at these sites, they took their idea to the cooperative’s Safety Committee. Members unanimously agreed to move forward and approach their neighboring co-ops for a possible partnership. The box is now owned by Roughrider, Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperatives, and will be shared as needed. Not every underground job will require the use of the box, but every cooperative will use the box. The cost-savings and gained efficiencies will benefit each cooperative.

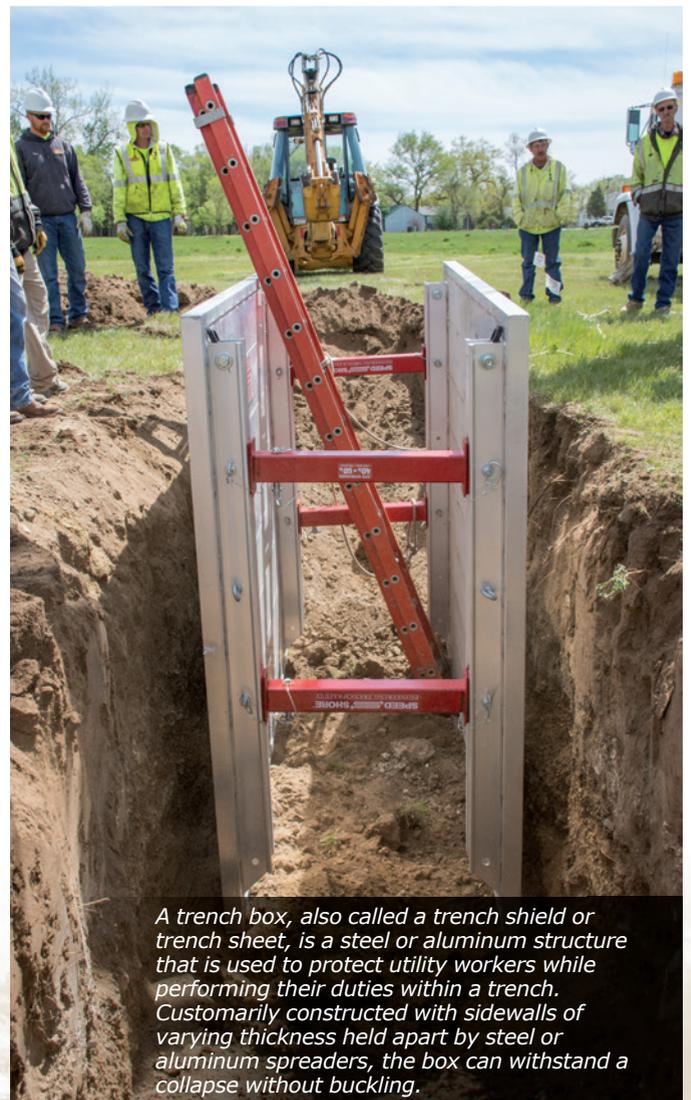
The box will be stored in the central location of Dickinson, between Hazen, Mandan and New England. For a planned job, the cooperative that needs it will send a lineman to pick it up. In an urgent situation, linemen from two cooperatives can meet halfway for the exchange.

The New England demonstration was the second safety training with the box. The first was held at Roughrider in Dickinson, where participants discussed the initial set-up and vendor manual.

During the second training, the linemen put the box in a real-world scenario where they dug a hole and lowered the equipment. Now when they need it, they won’t run into issues they didn’t anticipate because they hadn’t set it in the ground.

The hands-on training helped the linemen not only visualize how to use the equipment, but take ownership of the box and help build their respective safety programs.

North Dakota’s Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives are proud of their culture of safety. Often referred to as their “brother’s keeper” for looking out for one another in the field, Ridl says the key to working safely is to, “Have a plan in place, and always use your head and tools.” The trench box is one more way your electric cooperative is providing safe and reliable power to its member-owners. ■



A trench box, also called a trench shield or trench sheet, is a steel or aluminum structure that is used to protect utility workers while performing their duties within a trench. Customarily constructed with sidewalls of varying thickness held apart by steel or aluminum spreaders, the box can withstand a collapse without buckling.

Founding co-op principle guides Manager Baumgartner to Basin Electric

STORY BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth cooperative principle, and Chris Baumgartner is showing his commitment — by continuing his role in a new capacity at Basin Electric Power Cooperative. His final day serving as Roughrider Electric Cooperative’s co-general manager and chief executive officer was July 28.

Baumgartner partnered with Don Franklund for the past five years to co-manage Roughrider, Slope, Mor-Gran-Sou and KEM Electric Cooperatives under the shared management and services organization known as Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative. The alliance cooperatives share employees and resources to save time and money — and ultimately benefit the autonomous memberships. In addition, Baumgartner and Franklund co-manage the West Dakota Holdings LLC family, including 3C Construction, West Dakota Utilities Service (WDUS) and other subsidiaries.

Months ago, Basin Electric announced a restructuring of the organization that included the creation of a senior vice president of member services and administration position. Baumgartner, who worked for Basin Electric for 20 years prior to joining the alliance as co-general manager and CEO, was a natural fit.

Baumgartner has a bachelor’s degree in mass communications, and Master of Business Administration and Master of Management degrees from the University of Mary, Bismarck. He started at Basin Electric as a college intern in 1992 and left as the manager of member relations in 2012.

“I grew up there, so to speak. It is where I first learned about our industry, and developed an understanding and love for the cooperative business model,” he says. Now as the senior vice president of member services and administration, Baumgartner is assisting Basin Electric with member and communication services, procurement and strategic planning.

In a statement issued by Basin Electric, CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut stated, “Chris’ familiarity with cooperatives from both the generation and distribution perspectives will be a tremendous asset as we continue work with our members to provide the safest, most reliable, and most affordable electricity possible to

consumers at the end of the line.”

That mission falls right in line with the work Baumgartner has been doing on behalf of Roughrider members.

“The past five years have been a wonderful time of growth, learning, cooperation and friendship. I am truly, truly humbled to have been given the opportunity by our boards of directors to work with Don to lead our organizations and to work directly with so many good people. I have said many times that the work our four cooperatives do, along with the WDUS family, is something special; something I am very proud to have been a part of,” he says. “Cooperation among cooperatives’ is one of our founding principles. That hasn’t changed and it won’t change — and the work will continue after my departure.”

Baumgartner left the alliance with a tremendous amount of support from Franklund and the many boards of directors, who looked at the job change as an opportunity to help move another cooperative member of the family forward.

“The fun thing would be to stay here [with the alliance] because we have so much going on. I feel like I started slow, started to grow and walk fast, and now we’re to the point where we’re running — and I’m leaving. There are so many exciting things that are going to happen here in the next few years,” he shares. “But I’ve been called to try and help in another area, so I’ll do that.”



*After serving Roughrider Electric as co-general manager and chief executive officer of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative for five years, **Chris Baumgartner** accepted the job of senior vice president of member services and administration with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.*

In his role at Basin Electric, Baumgartner will continue to support the alliance and cooperative memberships in any way he can. He says he feels confident the alliance will make progress with Franklund as manager. He recently reflected on some good and bad days they've had on the job. No matter what issue presented, Baumgartner said he and Franklund were always a team who sometimes had different perspectives, but always held great respect for one another and the decision-making process. Their commitment to the level of cooperation needed to co-manage the cooperatives, and their desire to receive guidance from the boards of directors, will leave a lasting legacy for the members who have made it clear they want to maintain local control, while moving forward in a more cost-effective manner than they would be able to do as individual co-ops.

In addition to Franklund's leadership, Baumgartner says the senior management teams and their support staffs, and active board members from across 16 North Dakota counties, will ease his departure and possibly set the course for another co-general manager/CEO. The boards are evaluating the vacancy and determining how best to move forward.

"The boards represent the people we serve. Each director represents one neighbor, one friend, coming together since cooperatives were formed 70 years ago to work together for the greater good. That's our whole purpose for being here," he says. "Our benchmark in the board room, and in our day-to-day tasks, is this: 'How will

this help the members?'" he asks. "We've never lost that sense of who we are and why we were formed. That plays into everything we do; every decision we make. That has never changed, and it will not change as I leave.

"I am going to miss this," he continues. "I really like what we've done in the past five years, and I'm excited about the next five. Selfishly, I'd like to be a part of it. I know how talented our people are. Roughrider, and the rest of our alliance partners, will continue to ask the question, 'How does this benefit the member?' and move our cooperatives forward."

Thank you for your work, support and commitment, Manager Baumgartner. We know you will continue working on behalf of all members at Basin Electric. ■

About Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative with headquarters in Bismarck. It generates and transmits electricity to 141 member rural electric systems in nine states including North Dakota, which in turn distribute electricity to about 3 million member-owners.

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** JUNE 30, 2017

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Hazen on June 30.

Reorganizational Meeting: The Board held its annual Reorganizational Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws. Ms. Grosz acted as chair of the meeting. She announced the following officers were elected by unanimous ballot:

- President – Roger Kudrna
- Vice President – Darell Herman
- Secretary – Troy Sailer
- Treasurer – Bruce Darcy

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 26, 2017, Meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report.

Dickinson office remodel: Mr. Bentz provided the Board with an update on the status of the Dickinson office remodel. Construction should be completed by July 14.

Safety Coordinator's report: The Board was referred to Mr. Stastny's written report.

Chief Financial Officer report: Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. He updated the Board that Coal Creek is complete with cable replacement north of Hazen. MP Technologies is also complete, going north of Pick City.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. Mountain Time on July 28, 2017 at a location to be determined in Medora, North Dakota.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Is your name on this list?

These are names of current and former members whose capital credit checks issued in December 2016 remain uncashed. Please contact us if your name appears on this list so we can update our records and re-issue your check.

What are capital credits?

When you buy electricity from Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you become a member and owner. You then have a share in the capital that remains at the end of the year. After expenses for furnishing your energy are paid, money left over, "margins," is set aside for you in the form of capital credits. These credits are divided among members, based on the amount and cost of electricity they purchased throughout the year.

Your capital credits become the cooperative's equity, and make it possible for us to secure loans and maintain facilities and services. The board of directors may authorize a capital credit retirement when they deem the financial position of the cooperative is strong enough to support it.

In December, members and former members received more than \$1.3 million in capital credit retirements. We reserve your capital credits for you, even if you leave the cooperative and move out of the area. If you are eligible for a capital credit retirement, we will make a diligent effort to send you a check by mail to your most current address on file.

If the check is returned or is left unclaimed, your name will appear in *Roughrider Electric Cooperative News*, as names appear here this month.

If you have information about any of the following names that may have a new address, please contact us via phone or email, 1-800-748-5533 or info@roughriderelectric.com.

Persons who wish to claim checks from the following list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification. Please keep a current address on file to help us deliver your future checks. If you have been a member before, tell us and help us keep your file up-to-date.

A To Z Repair	Bolstad, Clarence	D & R Truck & Auto	Evjen, Darren
Aasand, Hardin	Borlaug, Brenda	Dallman, Thomas J.	Fairchild, Steve
Aasen, Debra	Botteicher, Mark	Daniels, Robert E.	Fairfield Comm Club
Alltel Corporate	Brannin Operating LLC	Dassinger, Bruce	Fasching, Joel
Anderson, Michelle	Braunberger Jr., Eugene	Davis, Bradley	Faut, Byron
Ashbaker, Alan	Bren, Randall	Davis, Brian	Federal Express
Badlands Combat Shooters	Broberg, Erik A.	Decker, Jeff	Ficek, Joel
Baer, Kenneth	Bruffey, Don	Decker, Robert J.	Fischer, Merle
Barta-Robison, Joyce M.	Brusich, Mike	Deines, Nicole	Flick, Lisa
Bather, N. S.	Bryhn, E. W.	Deyoung, Keith C.	Fogel, Lyle R.
Bauer, Harold	Buffalo Valley Archers	Dittus, Ron L.	Ford, Kent M.
Bauer, Karen	Burian, Maynard L.	Dockter, Larry	Four Corners Cafe
Bechtle, James A.	Burman, Jodi	Dolan, Cormac H.	Frenzel, Darlene F.
Beckman, Steve	Captains	Doll, Callen K.	Frenzel, Sarah J.
Behm, Leonard	Carey, Tracy	Doll, Don	Froehlich, Russel D.
Belcher, Eric S.	Carter Elevator Co. Inc.	Donner, Leslie	Fugere, Kevin
Belfield Dairy Queen	Cherney, John	Dougherty, Michael J.	G L Trucking & Rental Inc.
Berg, Marvin J.	Chruszch, Paul	Dowhaniuk, Jim	Gabbert, Kathy
Bernhardt, Dan	Churchill, James R.	Dyna Jet Inc.	Garrett, Jim
Bertsch, Gailene S.	Claircom Communications GP	Eastman, Manuel V.	Garrett, John
Best, Bryan G.	Ltd	Edwards, Thomas A.	Garrett, Michelle
Betlaf, Lawrence Family Trust	Clark, Amy L.	Ehrmantraut, Kristy	Gawrylow, Edward R.
Biel, Christine	Clarys, Richard	Elkin, Beverly	Geigle, Erwin K.
Biesterfeld, Carmen	Clyde, Kevin	Ell, Leroy J.	Genesis One Inc.
Biller, Gary M.	Colton, Robert	Emerson, Kathy	Geno's Travel Center
Black, James	Cowboy Cafe	Emter, Tamara	Gietzen, Curtis J.
Blackler, Shanda R.	Crocker, Charles R.	Energy Systems Company	Globstad, Harry S.
Bledsoe, Mark C.	Cross, Richard L.	Erv's Plumbing & Heating	Goelzer, Kay L.
Bohl, Steven A.	Cunningham, Marc A.	Etzel, Wanda	Gosney, Naomi M.

Grosulak, Gerry
 GTE Government Systems Inc.
 Guenther, Colin
 Haag, Dale
 Haase, Michael T.
 Hafner, David
 Haga, William J.
 Hager, Mark
 Halter, Blaine
 Halter, Kathy
 Halvorson, Curtis D.
 Hardtland Inc.
 Hartfiel, Quita
 Hartfiel, Richard P.
 Hartman, Cindy
 Hass, Brenda
 Hays, Cary L.
 Heckaman, Boontuang
 Heidt, Casey
 Heiser, Allen
 Henrickson, Dr. Ronald R.
 Herman, Vance
 Herrboldt, Todd
 Herrmann, Martwin
 Hintz, Mike
 Hitland, Jeffery A.
 Hochsprung, Julie
 Hoggarth, Stacy
 Holt, Karen
 Homsey, Terry
 Hornick, Steven
 Horst, Douglas
 Hutmacher, Leslie
 Insulation Supply
 Ivesdal, Mayetta
 Jacobsen, Sharon L. DBA S & K
 Rentals
 James, Jay
 Jandt, Diane
 Jensen, William F.
 Jerome, Mark
 Johnson, Mari K.
 Johnson, Mary
 Johnsen, Owen L.
 Johnson, Pegs
 Johnson, Shane
 Johnson, William
 K & D Motors Inc.
 Kadrmas, Dean
 Kadrmas, Delbert E.
 Kadrmas, Melvin A.
 Kadrmas, Wade
 Kaffar, Timothy J.
 Karges, Perry
 Keator, Lance
 Keller, Deidre
 Kessel, Joseph P.
 Kessler, Keith
 Ketterling, Larry
 Kinney, Tom
 Kirton, Michael D.
 Kling, Arlis

Knutson Mortgage Co.
 Koenig, Sara L.
 Koester, Doug
 Koffler, Paula M.
 Kostelecky, Deborah
 Kostelecky, Martha
 Kraft, Steve
 Krebs, William
 Kremers, Kody
 Krieg, Tina
 Kruger, Kelly
 Krushevsky, Kathy
 Kubas, Dean
 Kubas, Melvin
 Kubik, Ladonna
 Kuylen, Kenneth
 Lack, Dennis
 Ladson & Hanson Charter
 Service
 Lee, Mark
 Leeson, Corrina M.
 Lefor, Edwin N.
 Lennick Property Mgmt
 Liana, Duttenehefer
 Little Soldier, Rosella
 Locke, Kathy
 M-I Llc
 Maguire, Robert J.
 Marsh, Bernie
 Mathers, Wade J.
 Matteson, Boyd
 Mattheis, Tess
 Mavity, Dorie
 Mcglynn, James J.
 Mcgowan, Rebecca
 Mesa Operating Ltd Prtshp
 Meschke, Arthur D.
 Messer, Greg
 Mikkelsen, Paul
 Mikkelson, Shannon M.
 Miller, Evelyn
 Miller, Timothy J.
 Milliken, Pam
 Moe, Tom
 Moody, Dave
 Morast, Delton
 Morast, Kim
 Morgan Richardson Oper. Co.
 Muecke, Ralph & Esther D.
 Muecke Estate
 Mullen, Richard B.
 Mutcher, Doug A.
 Myers, Michael R.
 Naumann, Larry
 Nd 4 Mckenzie Ltd Prtshp
 Nelson, Eric L.
 O'brien, Larry J.
 O'neal, Bud
 Odneal, Joseph A.
 Ok Tire Store
 Olheiser, Vaunda
 Olson, Kandi

Ooka, Paul
 Ott, Paul J.
 Paluck, David
 Panterra Petroleum
 Pavlicek, Alan
 Pender, Jackie
 Pender, Karen D.
 Perry, James L.
 Pfliger, Helen
 Pierce, Floyd D.
 Pladson, Darcy
 Poulin, Robert J.
 Praus, Gene
 Praus, Randy
 Primeaux, Robert L.
 Pullen Jr., Delwin L.
 Quale, Brenda
 Quinlen, Jerry
 R & R Hot Oil Service Inc.
 Rabe, Kyle
 Ramirez, Michael
 Reiger, Shelly
 Reindel, Dale
 Reiners, Roxanne
 Reiter, Curtis J.
 Reiter, Danny
 Reitmeier, Sonja
 Renner, Bryan
 Ridl, Kurt, Keith & Arthur
 Riverview Garden Apts.
 Robinson, Billy J. Trust
 Rohrich, Blaine
 Romanyshyn, Rainald
 Roshau, Stacy
 Royal American Foods
 Rueb, Todd
 Running, Tami M.
 Russell, Leanne
 Rustan, Melissa & Jerril H.;
 Rustan Estate
 Rutherford, Patti
 Sailer, JT
 Sakakawea Flying Ltd.
 Sanford, Patricia
 Schauer, Ronald
 Schiff, Jeff A.
 Schleve, Dinah M.
 Schmidt, Dean
 Schneider, William J.
 Schoeder, Dean
 Schroeder, Robert
 Schwalbe Rentals
 Schwartzmann Trucking
 Schweiger, Richard
 Scott, Billy K.
 Sellie, Peter J.
 Shoemaker, Mark E.
 Shypkoski, Dwayne
 Simeon, Charles L.
 Smith, David D.
 Sniffen, J. M.
 Soine, Keith W.

Staigle, George
 Star Contracting
 Staudinger, Brad
 Stearns, Desarae
 Steckler, Jason
 Steffan, Gary R.
 Steger, Tom
 Steier, Gerald
 Steiner, Gerald L.
 Stimac, Sharon K.
 Stockdill, Garland
 Straub, Cheryl
 Stroh, Dorletta & David W.
 Stroh Estate
 Teske, Theophil
 Thomas, Jack G.
 Thomy, Douglas E.
 Thornton, Lloyd
 Tom Haugen Operating Co.
 Tooz, Rhonda
 Total Petroleum Inc.
 Trico Industries Inc.
 Twardoski, Dale
 Underdahl, Nance M.
 Union Congr. Church
 Vogeli, Christian B.
 Voyageur Cove
 Wallach, Daniel L.
 Walsvik, Daniel V.
 Walter, Cindy
 Wanner, William A.
 Weigum, Amanda
 Weinhardt, Rita A.
 Weiss, Tim L.
 Western Oil Well Services
 Wetzel, Leland
 White, Mark
 Wilson, Arvera S.
 Willer, Darlene
 Wilson, Harry
 Winkelman, Dale
 Winkler, Julie
 Winn, Willis D.
 Winter, Kim
 Witherow, Wayne A.
 Wolla, Ricky D.
 Woodward, Jim
 Wright, Julie L.
 Zacher, Shelly A.
 Zalusky, Denise M.
 Ziman, Mary R.

Don't put **safety** on autopilot.

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Roughrider Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues and human error.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Roughrider Working Foreman Shawn Olson. “When drivers set their GPS, that tractor is basically driving itself — and it doesn’t always account for structures in their field. Because the tractor is programmed, drivers may not be paying as much attention as they did years ago. When they rely on technology, it’s a lot easier to hit something that is in their field. Unfortunately, that’s a lot of power poles,” he says.

“Too often, people say they didn’t see the power pole because they were playing a game on their smartphone or reading the newspaper,” Olson continues. “Advanced technology like GPS is great when it works. But it doesn’t eliminate the need to stay alert to possible hazards and changing conditions.”

Olson encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY

for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Roughrider Electric linemen to de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Roughrider Electric Cooperative at 1-800-748-5533 or email safety@roughriderelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE
701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST Monday-Friday
(Summer Hours Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric’s main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause’s Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson’s Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE
701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday
(Summer Hours Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric’s main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the north and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson	483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah	873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley	983-4222
William Retterath; Center	794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson	483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler	794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center	548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England	579-4395

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund	Co-General Manager/CEO
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