

September Operations Update



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2022 PROJECTS

In other operations news, RAM Utilities completed our annual pole inspection this May. We test all our poles on a 10-year rotating schedule. Pole testing increases the reliability and safety of our electric system, and it is one of the many ways we increase safety for our employees and our members. This year RAM Utilities inspected 1832 poles and only 32 of those were rejected.

This fall, we hope to continue working on our large 600 amp project from Gavins substation to Oak Hills. If you remember, that is our project to install large single-phase and three-phase cabinets that can handle higher amps to keep up with the load growth in the west Yankton lake area. We are currently 75% done with this project, but we are waiting on a few more cabinets to be delivered to complete it.

Despite the ongoing battle to order material, our linemen have stayed busy this summer constructing 32 new services, changing out poles after our 2021 pole inspection and the May storm, replacing bad cable for farm tap/irrigation services, and retiring old services.

Our electricians have also been extremely busy.

They are continuously troubleshooting and taking miscellaneous service calls. Wes Kloucek has taken over our Load Control Receiver change out project while Kevin Meyer has been doing irrigation panel work, trenching secondary lines for consumers, replacing old wire, and helping convert overhead lines to underground. They were both kept busy after the May 12th storm on repair projects for consumers.

SAFETY TRAINING

B-Y Electric employees are re-certified in pole top rescue each year as part of our robust safety training program. Loss Control Professional Tyson Brooks from the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) conducted the training this July.

In an emergency situation, the first step is to call in the mayday and make sure help is on the way. The office personnel practiced the steps in responding to a mayday on the radio.

Meanwhile, the rescuer climbs the pole, anchors a rope with a screwdriver or wraps it over the cross arm. After it is securely tied around the victim, the climbing belt is cut allowing the rescuer to slowly lower him to the ground.

The crews also practiced bucket rescue and made sure everyone knows how to run the lower controls on all of the bucket trucks.

SDREA also conducted dielectric testing on all our bucket trucks to test their ability to insulate workers in the bucket. This testing is done twice a year.

To wrap up, I have a few reminders. Don't cut safety corners while harvesting this fall because harvesting around power lines can be deadly. If your equipment does make contact with a power line, stay in the vehicle and call us at (605) 463-2507 or call 911.



L to R: Gunnar Dally pole top rescue. Alex Caba pole top rescue. Nathan Kloucek pole top rescue. Wes Kloucek and Tyler Suess dielectric testing.