



WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



## COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO

# Safety Above All Else



MARY JO THOMAS  
CEO

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when

it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For WWVREMC, it's the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, WWVREMC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to

our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

## Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. WWVREMC has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a

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WHAT'S NEW IN MAY



**PAGE 2** Spring Cleaning Can Score You a \$50 Rebate and Help Support Our Community; Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month; Outages by Cause for February 2018



**PAGE 3** May Payment Information; Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up® grants funding to local organizations



**PAGE 4** Plug into Safety; Comments from your CEO, *continued*; Helpful Information

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY: THINK OUTSIDE THE HOME



Dusting off outdoor cleaning tools and getting ready to give some much-needed TLC to your home and yard? Learn how to stay electrically safe outdoors.

When starting projects that require power tools, always ensure your outdoor outlets are up to standards and include ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If you're using an extension cord, do not use unless it is labeled "for outdoor use."

- Inspect power tools before and after each use.
- Replace or repair worn or defective equipment immediately.
- Keep tools and the area you're working on clean to avoid fire hazards, and always store them in a dry place.
- Never use electric tools or mowers in wet areas.



## COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO continued

safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

### Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. WWVREMC conducts electrical safety demonstrations

in schools and for community events.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes.

Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact WWVREMC for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, contact [scason@wwvremc.com](mailto:scason@wwvremc.com). Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Liberty Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Monday through Friday*

**CLOSED SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.**

*We will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.*

### To Report an Outage or Emergency

Call 1-800-776-0493, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at [www.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.com).

### BE READY TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed
- Map location number.
- Your phone number - needed to call back or confirm power restoration
- The type of problem you are experiencing - flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

### WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

101 Brownsville Avenue  
P.O. Box 349  
Liberty, IN 47353

765-458-5171  
1-800-529-5557

[www.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.com)  
[info@wwvremc.com](mailto:info@wwvremc.com)



WHITEWATER VALLEY  
RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

President & CEO - *Mary Jo Thomas*  
Powerlines Editor - *Sandy Cason*

