

NEWS & VIEWS

A monthly publication for members of Heartland Power Cooperative | August 2022

Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. *We know we shouldn’t*, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young

drivers and school buses back on the road, it would be a good time to remind folks of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. This statistic is heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily

be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Member Appreciation Event in St. Ansgar on Aug. 1st!

You can find photos & prize winners on our Facebook page and in the September News & Views newsletter!

**2 KIDS
IN COLLEGE
\$115,000
MORTGAGE**

**RESTORING
POWER TO
THE
COMMUNITY**

**BUT RIGHT NOW IT’S
YOU I’M WORRIED ABOUT.**

HIS JOB IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH. The last thing he needs is for you to drive into his utility truck because you ignored the flashing lights, cones and signs. When you see utility crews at work, slow down and move over. *You have the power to protect a life.*



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**

Providing members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and enhancing the quality of life for members and their local communities.

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MONTHLY CO-OP QUIZ

\$25 Bill Credit Winner

Cheryl Baumann of Buffalo Center

This Month's Question...

What does PASS stand for when using a fire extinguisher?

Quiz Guidelines: Each member who sends in the correct answer by the 20th of the month will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit. Mail or email quiz answers to energy@heartlandpower.com.

Watch for Asplundh Contractors near Charles City

Asplundh contractors will be in the Heartland Power territory performing routine vegetation management on behalf of Heartland Power.

Asplundh has started line clearing and spraying along the Bassett substation east and south circuits near Charles City and Colwell.



Know How to Use a Fire Extinguisher!



Safety is a top priority at Heartland Power Cooperative and we continue to commit to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In June, Heartland Power staff attended the monthly Safety Meeting training focused on fire protection. HPC staff had hands-on experience using a fire extinguisher to put out a controlled fire.

When using a fire extinguisher, it is important to remember P.A.S.S.:

P*PULL* the pin. A small pin prevents the fire extinguisher from accidentally being discharged; all you have to do is pull it out, continue to the next step.

A*AIM* the nozzle of the fire extinguisher low at the base of the fire.

S*SQUEEZE* the trigger. Remember to squeeze it slowly and evenly so the extinguisher is as effective as possible.

S*SWEEP* the extinguisher from side to side to cover all areas the fire may have spread to.

Reminder: Our summer electric rates of 11.6 cents/kWh are in effect the months of June, July, and August.