



New Tech
for Reduced
Fire Risks



SMPA Blood Drive:
Join the Club!



SMPA Board
Director
Announced!

JULY 2021

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

HELP PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES:

- Don't run cords under carpeting, bedding, or other combustible materials.
- Avoid placing cords across doorways or frequently traveled areas.
- Never use damaged cords with frayed or bare wiring.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

EV Charging Stations Come to SMPA

Back in May, we announced that SMPA had been awarded a grant from Charge Ahead Colorado to install Dual-Port Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations at both the Nucla and Ridgway offices. Once they are installed, the chargers will be available to charge both public and employee vehicles. Here are a few frequently asked questions about the new chargers:

Q: Why is SMPA installing these Chargers?

A: It is predicted that by 2035, 50% of new vehicles will be all electric. The fact that they have zero emissions and require less maintenance are two driving forces behind their promotion. SMPA supports this environmentally friendly form of transportation and wishes to help our membership in adopting it.

Q: Will SMPA charge for the use of the stations?

A: SMPA will have the ability to charge for the use of the EV Charging stations if it desires. SMPA does not intend to charge a fee initially but will likely do so later.

Q: Will we have to charge during business hours or pay inside?

A: No, the Stations SMPA is installing will be self-sufficient. EV owners will simply hold their phone up to the display to pay for charging. (There are numerous "apps" that EV Owners have access to for this purpose.)

Check out these web resources on EVs:

- www.chargepoint.com
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS9WlsE1p8A
- www.plugshare.com
- www.atlaspolicy.com/rand/evaluateco

Q: Who is paying for these EV Chargers?

A: About 80% (\$18,000) of the cost of the charging stations is being funded by Charge Ahead Colorado and Tri-State G&T. The remainder of the cost is being paid for by money that SMPA budgeted for this purpose.



Ridgway EV Charging Station Install



Nucla EV Charging Station Install

SMPA Election: Rhoades Reelected



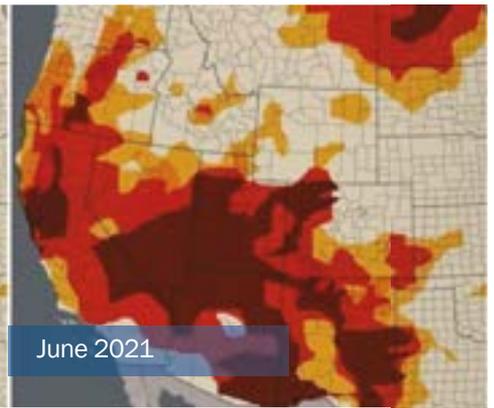
Last month, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) held its Board of Directors election for the Board District #7 seat, which represents the communities of Silverton and Ouray.

The independent election monitor reported that a total of 303 valid ballots were received and counted. Challenger, Rory Cowie received 143 votes and incumbent, Terry Rhoades received 160 votes. Director Terry Rhoades was declared the winner and will resume his directorship for another four-year term.

Using New Technology to Reduce Fire Risk

Credit: CBS News & US Drought Monitor

According to historical weather data, drought conditions across the American Southwest are worse than they have been for over 1000 years. U.S. Drought Monitor maps show vast swaths of western Colorado in drought category “D4” or “Exceptional.” This category is defined as worse than two lower categories labeled “D3, Extreme” and “D2, Severe.”



Oh, what we'd give to be back in merely “Severe” conditions!

The so-called “Mega-Drought” has elevated the risks of wildfires to catastrophic levels. In such a situation, governments, businesses, and citizens are called upon to adapt. So too, must the electric cooperative that transports electricity through high fire-risk zones.

Fortunately, there are technologies available that do reduce fire risk near power lines. One such device is called a “Trip Saver.” It can replace a standard fuse on lateral lines or “taps.” The Trip Saver uses a vacuum interrupter that prevents the expulsion of sparks or heated materials when it operates, thus lowering the risk of wildfires where dry fuels may be present.

Once a fault clears itself--as about 80% of them do--the Trip Saver has the added benefit of being able to reclose the circuit

automatically without requiring a service crew to drive out to the location to replace a fuse. This can drastically reduce the duration of power outages for consumers, and reduce operations and maintenance costs, thereby lowering upward pressure on electric rates.

Of course, these remarkable devices do come with a significant upfront cost, so their deployment must be staged and strategic. Fortunately, SMPA engineers and mapping technicians are currently building digital fire map layers that can help us prioritize locations on the grid to maximize the benefit where it's needed the most.

Wildfires that were prevented don't make headlines. They don't damage the environment, and they don't endanger

people or property. SMPA is exploring and incorporating smart solutions to ensure that wildfires are prevented.



WHAT IS SMART PAY? ...a way to buy power that puts me in charge.

- No deposits, late fees, or reconnect fees.
- Pay whenever it makes sense for me.
- Convenient texts or emails help me keep track of my balance.

www.smpa.com/content/smartpay

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's Blood Mobile is coming to you!
Make sure you make an appointment, and a healthy donation! Schedule before you donate, and don't forget your ID.

San Miguel Power
70 W. 10th Avenue, Nucla

Wednesday, July 14
12:00 - 3:00 pm

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, MASKS ARE REQUIRED
We are only taking appointments for our blood drives to help us maintain social distancing. Please visit www.stmarysbloodcenter.org to make your appointment today.

ARE YOU IN THE CLUB?
Donate blood 5 times in 2021, and receive a special gift.

SCL Health ST. MARY'S
If you have any questions about the upcoming blood drive please call St. Mary's Blood Center at 970-246-2888.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: VERI R SPATS

Hint: These can replace fuses in high fire risk zones to lower the fire danger.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to: **EnergyWise PO Box 1150 Ridgway, CO 81432**



Have you changed your phone # or email?
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311.