



Line Crew Readiness



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OCTOBER 2021

ENERGYWISE



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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH:

- A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating. Have any loose fitting outlets inspected.
- Clothes dryers can start residential fires. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes.
- Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas.

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.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotype, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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.

Pole Top Rescue Training Keeps Line Crews Ready for Crisis Response

Being prepared for any situation is something all SMPA employees take seriously. When working on electric poles as high as 70-feet from the ground, relying on the quick thinking of your co-workers could mean the difference between life and death.

A Pole Top Rescue is executed when something has happened that has caused a line worker to become unconscious, unresponsive or otherwise unable to descend the structure on his or her own. When our crews are making repairs on electric poles, it's not uncommon for them to be hours away from first responders. If an emergency were to arise, crew members must have the training to safely lower the person down from the pole, begin first aid, and continue until emergency crews arrive.

SMPA linemen are required to perform an annual training exercise called "Pole top rescue". This exercise simulates a lineman having an electrical contact injury and becoming unconscious at the top of a pole. Every lineman in the company has four minutes to don climbing and safety gear, climb up the pole to the "injured man," secure a rope around the test dummy, and lower it to the ground. Crews are also trained in the use of AEDs (automated external defibrillators) which are carried on all service trucks.

"In a stressful situation, people tend to rely on training and muscle memory," says Safety and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator, Paul Enstrom. "With this training, we develop and maintain that muscle memory in all our crew members."

Although pole top rescues are only a small part of the safety program, they have the potential to be the most vital. Through training and refresher courses, crew members give themselves the best opportunity to act as first responders.



October is National Co-op Month!

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and show appreciation for the members who give their co-ops purpose.

◀ Celebrate with this FREE Member Appreciation Gift!

*One gift per membership

*Member must collect in person at an SMPA Office Location

* While Supplies Last



Bawl True Wireless Auto Pair Ear Buds (Substitutions available)

West End Robotics Program Lights the Way

At the West End Family Link Center on Main Street in Nucla, lights are shining! They are lights on Lego Mindstorms robots, and on the faces of their young creators. The West End Family Link Center established a Robotics program two years ago to provide a learning experience for school-aged children. It provides participants with an opportunity to develop problem solving skills, critical thinking, and social competence. There are also two teenaged staff members who provide oversight and

encouragement to the participants. They have also utilized their skills and experience in mentoring the younger participants adding another layer of tools that will be important in building their futures.

“When the younger kids first started, it was kind of a struggle getting them to figure out programming,” said Victoria Pierce, West End Family Link Programs Coordinator. “...but now they’ve learned to work the programming out a lot more.”

The vision of the West End Family Link Center is to build stronger, healthier families and individuals in the West End of Montrose and San Miguel counties. One strategy toward fulfilling that vision is maintaining children’s programs that develop skills needed to be self-sufficient and resilient both now and later in life. When asked for a donation to help support this programming, the SMPA Board was only too happy to oblige.



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- Better organization
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Make the innovative and environmentally friendly choice of using SmartHub with your San Miguel Power Association account! Sign up for paperless auto payments that you can quickly check from your phone or laptop! Sign up through the link below!

www.smpa.com/content/smarthub-web-instructions#GoPaperless

Are you Leaving Money on the Table?

If you are making energy efficiency upgrades, adding solar or replacing gas-burning appliances with electric for your home or business, you may be eligible to receive rebates from SMPA.

FIND OUT IF YOUR PURCHASE QUALIFIES:



Energy Efficiency

www.ecoactionpartners.org/smparebates



Renewable Energy

www.smpa.com/content/renewable-rebates



Beneficial Electrification (Replacing gas with electric)

www.smpa.com/content/electric-vehicles-and-beneficial-electrification



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SHARING
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Winning Projects Help:

- Stimulate job creation
- Promote economic growth
- Create/improve local commerce

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
RELAX A TRUE FRIEND DA IBOT LL TOAST ME
Hint: Every bucket truck has one.

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



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