

Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JUNE 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 2



Making Cheese

The Artisanal Way at Valley Side Farm

Page 8-9

Your Cooperative Visits DC



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

As a member of Central Electric Cooperative, you know that having access to safe and reliable electricity is a top priority. An example of how your cooperative fulfills this mission is our efforts to restore electric service after the most recent snow storm. We sent crews and equipment for three days assisting two of our neighboring cooperatives rebuild after the heavy snow storm that impacted them on May 1st.

But equally important to keeping the lights on is ensuring that our elected leaders keep the cooperative in mind when they are crafting laws and regulations that impact us. It may surprise you to know just how much our work is affected by what lawmakers and regulators do in Washington, DC. That's why this year, 57 South Dakotans joined over 2,000 electric cooperative representatives from all across our great country to visit our leaders in Washington. Our mission at this conference was to talk about issues that are important to cooperatives and our members.



General Manager Ken Schlimgen addresses Representative Kristi Noem during a session with the South Dakota cooperative representatives

The trip was part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference. The South Dakota participants met with political advocacy members from NRECA and South Dakota legislators to discuss issues important to South Dakota's electric cooperatives.

Working for our membership does not stop at the edge of our service territory. Your electric cooperative is working just as hard in Washington as we are here at home to keep your electricity flowing.

We met with Senator John Thune, Senator Mike Rounds and Representative Kristi Noem to briefly discuss issues important to our cooperatives. These issues included helping to create a workable Clean Power Plan, reducing barriers to obtain utility access across federal lands, support for the Rural Utilities Service electric loan program, protection for funding for Low Income Home Energy Assistance, and protection for the Power Marketing Agencies and the Federal Power Program. We stressed the importance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its impact on a community's ability to recover from a major disaster.

Electric cooperatives built and improved the infrastructure to bring electricity to rural America who were being left behind and in the dark. Today, co-ops provide power to 42 million Americans in 47 states. The participants in the conference strongly advocated for public policies that are driven by consumer interest needs. Overreaching federal regulations have a significant negative impact on rural America, so cooperatives are asking Washington policymakers to revisit a number of federal rules that have hurt rural communities and pose a threat to our mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

During the legislative conference, Energy Secretary Rick Perry attended as a guest speaker and hailed America's electric cooperatives for delivering affordable, reliable electricity across the country. Perry encouraged the electric cooperatives to advocate on the challenges facing the industry, especially the issue of grid security.

"You are a unique group of people," Perry said in his address to more than 2,100 cooperative leaders. "You need to be a part of this conversation."

Working for our membership does not stop at the edge of our service territory. Your electric cooperative is working just as hard in Washington as we are here at home to keep your electricity flowing.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

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This institution is an equal
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Co-op News

LOOK UP AND LIVE



KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE



PoweringYourSafety.com



Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives

Employee Years of Service

Brian Bultje

June 9 - 31 years

Al Spader

June 15 - 30 years

Geoff Byrd

June 15 - 30 years

Tim Johnson

June 26 - 39 years

Thank you for all you do for the cooperative and our members!

Know How You Can Stay Safe and Get Through Until Power Gets Restored to You

Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties and lives. These storms can also take down power lines – creating a dangerous situation for all of us, including the linemen and linewomen working hard to get your power turned back on.

How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas. There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process – clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to customers within the various damaged areas.

Be sure to contact your electric utility immediately to report the outage.

Safe Electricity recommends taking the following safety precautions:

- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Every downed power line is potentially energized and dangerous until utility crews arrive on the scene to ensure

power has been cut off. Downed power lines, stray wires and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.

- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are submerged. The water could be energized.
- Do not turn power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility and have them turn off power at the meter.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.
- Do not use water-damaged electronics before properly restoring them. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some of your appliances and electronics. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, do not use electronic equipment in wet conditions.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and keep others away. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If you do come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment – one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, it is critical that proper safety precautions be taken. Always read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions. There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances. Operate generators in well-ventilated, outdoor, dry areas. Never attach a temporary generator to a circuit breaker, fuse or outlet. Permanent generators should be wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch in order to prevent feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

To help you get through, have a storm kit prepared. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place, and make sure all members of the family know where it is.

For information on when to save and when to throw out refrigerated food after a power outage, go to FoodSafety.gov.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Call first or you might hit underground cable."



Seth Lippert, 9 years old

Seth is the son of Dean Lippert, Blomkest, Minn. He is a member of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Dairy Delicious



Blues Buster Smoothie

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 (6-oz.) container low-fat
blueberry-flavored yogurt | 2/3 cup fresh or frozen
blueberries |
| 1/2 cup apple juice | 3 to 4 ice cubes |

Combine all ingredients in a blender; blend until smooth and creamy.

Cortney Reedy, Tea

Easy Creamy Chicken Enchiladas

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 small chicken breasts or 2 large
chicken breasts | 1 (7 oz.) can chopped green
chilies |
| 2 (10.5 oz.) cans cream of chicken
soup | 1 small can sliced olives |
| 3/4 cup sour cream | 2 cups shredded or grated
Cheddar cheese |
| 1/3 cup milk | 1 pkg. flour tortillas |

Cook chicken breasts in crockpot until tender. Shred. Mix together cream of chicken soup, sour cream and milk; set aside. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. To the chicken, add chopped green chilies, olives and half of the soup mixture. Roll up chicken mixture in tortillas; 8 to 10 usually fit in a 9x13-inch pan. Spread remainder of soup mixture over all and top with Cheddar cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 35 to 40 minutes. If prepared in advance and refrigerated, bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Serve with sour cream and salsa, if desired.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Coconut Cream Cheesecake Bars

- | | |
|---|--|
| 84 Nilla wafers, divided | 2 T. sugar |
| 6 T. butter, melted | 2 (3.4 oz) pkg. vanilla instant
pudding |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese,
softened | 2-1/2 cups cold milk |
| 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip,
thawed, divided | 1-1/2 cups coconut, toasted,
divided |

Reserve 24 wafers. Crush remaining wafers and then mix with butter. Press onto bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate while preparing filling. Beat cream cheese and sugar with mixer until well blended. Whisk in 1 cup Cool Whip. Carefully spread over crust. Stand reserved wafers around edges. Beat pudding mix and milk with whisk in medium bowl for 2 minutes. Stir in 1 cup Cool Whip and 3/4 cup coconut; spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining Cool Whip and coconut. Refrigerate 5 hours.

Gail Lee, Brookings

No Bake Cookie Dough Ice Cream Sandwich

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter | 1-1/4 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
(about 35 vanilla wafers) |
| 1/3 cup butter, softened | 1 cup miniature chocolate chips |
| 2/3 cup confectioners' sugar | 4 cups vanilla ice cream, softened |
| 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar | |
| 2 tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract | |

Mix peanut butter and butter in large bowl until well blended. Add sugars and vanilla; stir until blended and smooth. Stir in vanilla wafer crumbs and chocolate chips. Line a 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Press 1/2 of the dough into an even layer. Pat remaining dough on parchment or wax paper into 8-inch square. Gently spread ice cream over layer in pan. Flip 8-inch square layer onto top of ice cream. Peel back parchment paper. Cover with foil. Freeze 3 hours or until firm. Let stand at room temperature 2 to 3 minutes to allow ice cream to soften slightly. Cut into 16 bars. Wrap each in plastic wrap. Store in freezer.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 305, Total Fat 17g, Sodium 118mg, Cholesterol 21mg, Carbohydrates 33g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Spam Hotdish

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups macaroni, cooked | 1 can cream of mushroom soup |
| 2-1/2 cups milk | 1/2 green pepper, diced |
| 1/4 cup butter, melted | 1 medium onion, diced |
| 1/2 cup bread crumbs | 1/4 lb. Velveeta, cubed |
| 4 eggs, well beaten | 1 can Spam, cubed |

Combine macaroni, milk, butter, bread crumbs, eggs and cream of mushroom soup. Add green pepper, onion, cheese and Spam. Pour into casserole dish. Bake at 350°F. for about 1 hour or until bubbly. If time is of the essence, casserole can be heated thoroughly in microwave before putting in the oven and then cut baking time in half.

Leann Fredrickson, Aberdeen

Crab Dip

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (16 oz.) container sour cream | 1 bunch green onions, chopped |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese,
softened | 1 pkg. slivered almonds |
| 1 pkg. ranch dressing mix | 1 pkg. imitation crab, chopped |
| | 2 cups shredded cheese |

Mix together sour cream, cream cheese and ranch dressing mix. Add remaining ingredients. Chill. Serve with assorted chips or crackers.

Pam Hofer, Carpenter

Please send your favorite dessert, salad or garden produce recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

“Stray Voltage” and Livestock



Patrick Soukup

Manager of Member Services and Marketing

Central Electric Cooperative’s delivery system and the electrical systems in homes, farms and businesses are grounded to the earth for maximum safety and reliability. This is required by both the National Electric Safety Code and National Electric Code.

Solving Stray Voltage Problems

Electric systems that are grounded to the earth have a small amount of current flowing through the earth when electrical power is used. Associated with this current is a small voltage, or “neutral-to-earth” (NEV) voltage. Neutral-to-earth voltage is a low-level voltage present on metal equipment that has been either grounded to the electrical system or connected to the grounded neutral conductor.

“Stray voltage” is the common term used to describe “neutral-to-earth” voltage in a cow or livestock contact area.

Symptoms of Stray Voltage

Cows can sense voltages at approximately one-tenth the level that humans can. Humans have inherently higher body resistance than cows and generally have shoes or boots on when working in barns, which increase resistance. Consequently, humans do not feel what animals feel. The most commonly mentioned symptoms of stray voltage include:

- Cows reluctance to enter milking parlor or stalls
- Reluctance to consume water or feed



- Nervous cows in milking parlor or stalls
- Poor milk production
- Uneven or incomplete milk out

Cows live in an environment in which many factors can lead to animal health problems. Cows may have the same symptoms from disease, nutrition problems, malfunctioning milking equipment or even food and water contamination.

Causes of Stray Voltage

Because of high electrical usage, higher humidity, corrosive silage acids, urine, and manure, a dairy barn is not an ideal environment for electrical wiring and equipment. There are a variety of factors, both on and off your farm, that can affect stray voltage levels. In most cases, stray voltage can be traced to any of the following:

- Faulty, improper or outdated electrical equipment or wiring
- Poor grounding conditions
- Unbalanced 120 volt loads
- Dirty or damaged electrical boxes and devices
- Poor connection on the neutral or ground wire system
- Incorrectly grounded trainers or fencers

Managing Stray Voltage

Stray voltage is not a mystery. There are fairly simple



electrical tests that can be performed by qualified individuals to determine whether stray voltage is present at unacceptable levels on your farm. Where stray voltage cannot be eliminated, it can be reduced so that your animals are not affected.

If you think that you may have a stray voltage problem, call a qualified electrician to review your farm wiring, call your milk dealer or representative to check your equipment, and notify your electric cooperative. Central Electric Cooperative has additional information on stray voltage and will work with you to identify and solve the problem.

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH: DID YOU KNOW?

- Before modern milk delivery, when people traveled and wanted milk, they had to take their cows with them.
- There are about 11 million cows in America. They will make about 57.5 billion quarts of milk this year.
- It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream.
- It takes 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter.
- Vanilla is America's favorite ice cream flavor.
- George Washington enjoyed ice cream so much he ran up a \$200 ice cream bill one summer.
- The milk mustache advertising campaign was launched in 1995.
- Cows have an acute sense of smell — they can smell something up to 6 miles away!
- The natural yellow color of butter comes mainly from beta-carotene found in the grass the cows graze on.
- Milk is better for cooling your mouth after eating spicy food. Milk products contain casein, a protein that cleanses burning taste buds.
- Most cows chew at least 50 times per minute.
- Cows drink 35 gallons of water a day — the equivalent of a bathtub full of water.
- The milk bottle was invented in 1884. Plastic milk containers were introduced in 1964.
- Consumer spending on dairy products is \$74.6 billion dollars annually about 1.33% of personal income.
- 12.27 % of the food dollar is spent on dairy products.
- The U.S. enjoys an average of 48 pints of ice cream per person, per year, more than any other country. Maybe we should make ice cream the fifth food group.
- In 2003, Portland, Oregon bought more ice cream per person than any other U.S. city. Looks like everyone else has a lot of catching up.
- The ice cream cone's invention is linked to the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. An ice cream vendor reportedly didn't have enough dishes to keep up with the demand, so he teamed up with a waffle vendor who rolled his waffles into cones.

Valley Side Farm Makes Cheese an Artform

Jocelyn Romey

FRESH, NATURAL, ARTISAN CHEESE – IT CAN ONLY get better by being locally made. And, it is. Kris Swanson and her husband, Scott, own and operate Valley Side Farm Cheese, LLC in Crooks, S.D., a rural town north of Sioux Falls. The business began in 2012 on the Swanson's eighth-generation family farm, where an old barn built in 1899 serves as the identifying logo for the cheese.

Kris Swanson studied how to make artisan cheese in Vermont at the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese (VIAC). From there, she took her knowledge and experience to start her own business. She notes she is the only artisan cheese maker in South Dakota. However, making this cheese by hand can be hard work and a time-consuming endeavor.

"It's more labor intensive than I bargained for," Swanson said. "I give a lot of credit to people who

make artisan cheese."

She carefully described the lengthy process of pasteurizing, culturing, cooking, cutting, weighing and pressing the cheese that was displayed in a refrigerated storage room. In all, the process of preparing the cheese took two to three days before it could be placed on the shelf.

Swanson said, "My favorite part in this process is seeing the finished product – the smell, the taste. When you cut into a wheel of cheese, it's so pretty. The satisfaction you get from making a product like that is so cool."

Swanson provides her local customers with a variety of Cheddar cheeses, mozzarella and even string cheese. Some of her current flavors include garlic, bacon, dill, red wine and beer.

Unlike other store-bought cheeses, Swanson's





University in Brookings where they conduct antibiotic testing on the milk before delivering it. While explaining this process, Swanson smiled and said, “Did you know, it takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese.”

Inspired by her love of cheese, Swanson said, “I like trying new things.”

She wanted to try something new and something she loved doing. Now, she has steady business and returning customers who are mostly local. Swanson has also been providing tours of her shop

cheese is made with natural and fresh ingredients. Swanson does not use additives such as color or preservatives like many other providers.

“Most cheese is yellow because dye is put into it,” Swanson said. “People always say my cheese tastes so clean. That’s because no preservatives are in it.”

Swanson buys ingredients locally, including the milk, which she buys from South Dakota State

to interested groups such as the Red Hat Society, homeschoolers, FFA chapters, culinary classes and more.

Even though it’s a new business, maybe Swanson always had it in her to make cheese. While talking about her business, she smirked and said, “I was a dairy princess in high school.”

So, the former dairy princess from Cottonwood County in Minnesota is now South Dakota’s artisan cheese maker.

For more information on Valley Side Farm Cheese, visit their Facebook page @ValleySideFarm-Cheese. Swanson’s cheese can be found in select stores and restaurants in the Sioux Falls area.



Left: Rows of cheese wheels with varying flavors sit on shelves at the Valley Side Farm Cheese Shop, ready for customers.

Above: The iconic 1899 barn serves as the identifying logo for the Valley Side Farm Cheese brand of Crooks, S.D.

Top: Valley Side Farm Cheese owner Kris Swanson stands with her 300-gallon cheese vat that she ordered from the Netherlands.

Cover: Multiple cheese samples are produced and displayed at Valley Side Farm Cheese.

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF KRIS SWANSON/VALLEY SIDE FARM CHEESE

Annual Pole Testing to Begin



Brian Bultje

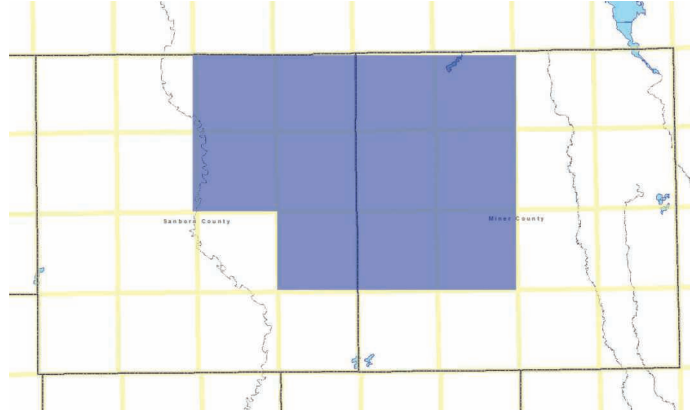
Manager of Operations

Central Electric's annual pole inspection program will be underway soon.

The areas to be tested this year include Floyd, Afton, Oneida, Benedict, and Diana townships in Sanborn County; and Redstone, Carthage, Miner, Green Valley, Clinton and Roswell townships in Miner County. Members may notice men digging around poles or riding four-wheelers along the power lines in these areas.

Central Electric has again contracted with SBS Pole Inspections, who we have hired for the previous five years. Central Electric does not have the manpower or labor necessary to complete certain projects, and those jobs need to be contracted out. Central Electric is part of a Cooperative Service Alliance (CSA) where several co-ops in the state regularly offer bids to ensure the best pricing for these contracted jobs and cost savings for our members.

The inspection program includes a top-to-bottom visual inspection and detects poles that may fail due to unforeseen below ground factors. Crews will be digging 18 inches down all around the pole (if no underground line is present). They will check for visual rot, and the pole will be drilled to determine if there is any internal decay. A sound test involves a hammer; a good pole will have a "ring" to it, but a defective pole will have a "thud" sound. If the pole looks to be in good condition, a preservative wrap will be applied to the exposed area and dirt put back around the pole. In most cases, the top 18 inches of the pole that comes in contact with the earth is



Approximately 5,000 poles in the shaded areas of Sanborn and Miner counties will be tested.

the major concern. Poles found to be in immediate danger are replaced as soon as possible. Other poles not passing an immediate hazard are scheduled for replacement at a later date. In addition to pole testing, crews are able to update GPS coordinates for cooperative equipment record-keeping.

The inspection program provides returns on investment by extending the life of the poles and reducing future costs. It also improves line safety and reduces unscheduled maintenance and outage time. When a storm or high winds come through, the defective poles will be the first go, and this program helps prevent that.

Approximately 5,000 poles will be tested this year. The program is on a 12-14 year rotation for testing every pole in the service territory.

Anyone who has a question or would like more information about the pole inspections may call the Central Electric office at 996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892.



Treatment for the pole is applied onto crud paper.



The crud paper and treatment are wrapped around the base of a pole. A pole is treated anytime there is excavation around it.

Celebrating 10 Years of Co-op Connections® Card discounts!

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Central Electric Cooperative and our members have been using the Co-op Connections Card for 10 years!

The Co-op Connections Card

- provides valuable discounts to members
- encourages local shopping and small business growth

To increase the benefit to our members and communities, members will receive an updated card at a later date. Stay tuned for more information. You can continue to use your current card or contact our office for a card until then.



To find participating businesses and discounts in your area, visit <http://www.connections.coop/co-ops/central-electric-cooperative>

Attention Business Owners!

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For more information:
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800-477-2892 • www.centralec.coop

Who Will Answer The Call?

Approximately 1 percent of all South Dakotans volunteer on their local fire departments.

Brenda Kleinjan

WHEN THE SIRENS BLARE IN SMALL TOWNS AND rural areas across South Dakota and western Minnesota, those responding to the emergencies are often volunteers.

“Volunteer fire departments serve a vital role to us here in South Dakota. Often times they are the only ones available to meet public safety needs in rural areas of the state,” said South Dakota Fire Marshal Paul Merriman.

In South Dakota, a majority of the state’s 8,500 firefighters are volunteers. According to statistics avail-

able from Merriman’s office, only five of the state’s 337 fire departments are career paid departments, employing 443 firefighters. The remaining 332 departments are staffed by volunteers (seven departments have a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters).

But, when an emergency arises, it doesn’t distinguish whether the people responding are volunteers or paid professionals.

“To become a certified volunteer firefighter in the state, a recruit has to undergo approximately 150 hours of instruction and hands-on training. Training



requirements have greatly increased over time out of necessity. Volunteer fire departments serve the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, from emergencies that immediately threaten life or property, to routine citizen requests for information and assistance,” Merriman said.

“Fire department staffing and firefighter recruitment and retention issues continue to present big challenges to volunteer fire departments. Time demands, increasing call volume, changes in the ‘nature of the business’ of firefighting, aging communities and other factors have contributed to reductions in the number of men and women joining and remaining in the volunteer fire service. The demand or need for volunteers continues to increase as the list of their duties continues to grow,” Merriman said.

In early June, firefighters from across the state will gather at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., for the State Fire School. While there, they will train in nearly 30 different areas.

There will be courses one expects: live fire training, firefighter survival, structure live burn and structural firefighting essentials. And there will be courses related to department operations such as junior firefighter programs, honor guards, grant writing, small engine maintenance and fire investigation.

And then there are the courses that cover the gamut of emergencies a fire department might encounter: mass triage, responding to an active shooter event, auto extrication, bus extrication, trench rescue, water rescue, grain bin rescue, hazardous materials awareness and the list goes on.

But, a firefighter’s training doesn’t stop at the conclusion of the State Fire School.

“Training requirements over and above the certified firefighter endorsement are established locally and vary from department to department, depending upon the type of incidents they typically respond to,” Merriman said.

In addition to training, fire department funding and fire department staffing (recruitment and retention) are some of the biggest challenges faced by volunteer fire departments across the state and the U.S., Merriman said.

“Becoming a volunteer firefighter takes a tremendous amount of time, and is a very demanding and sometimes dangerous job. The personal satisfaction that comes from helping others is the No. 1 reason people give why they choose to serve in the fire service. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and one of the best ways you can make a difference in your community. The skills and experience gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and can have a positive and lasting effect on your life and the lives of those around you,” Merriman said.

“We take firefighters and local fire departments for granted. Until we need them, we don’t realize how important they are. No matter how big your community department is, support them. Show them that they matter.”

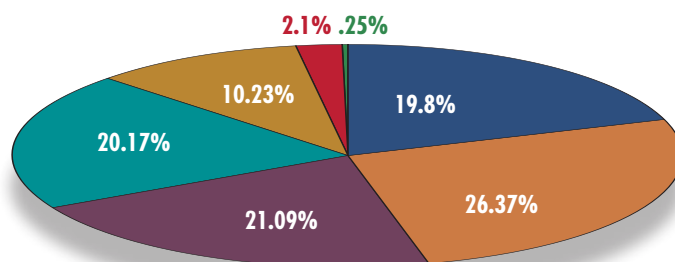
For information on becoming a volunteer firefighter, contact your local fire department.

Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., assisted the Lemmon, S.D., Volunteer Fire Department with a training scenario involving a car and a power pole. Throughout South Dakota, more than 8,000 people serve on one of the state’s 332 volunteer fire departments.

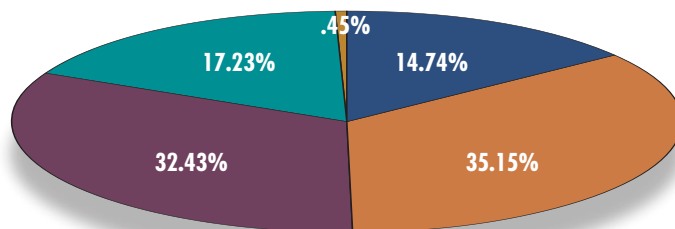
PHOTO COURTESY GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

S.D. FIREFIGHTER AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

S.D. Volunteer Fire Departments



Paid Fire Departments



■ Under 29 ■ 30-39 ■ 40-49 ■ 50-59 ■ 60-69 ■ 70-79 ■ 80-plus

Statistics as of July 1, 2016. Information on age demographics as reported by fire departments to the South Dakota Fire Marshal’s office. The average age of a South Dakota volunteer firefighter is 42.48 years old compared to 39.73 for a paid firefighter.

Source: https://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/state_fire_marshall/images/age_of_firefighters_2016.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?

- As of July 1, 2016, there were 8,560 firefighters at South Dakota’s 337 fire departments.
 - When compared to the state’s size of 77,121 square miles, this equates to one firefighter per nine square miles. (On average, each fire department covers 228 square miles.)
 - Of South Dakota’s state population* of 865,454, less than 1 percent of all South Dakotans are a firefighter.
 - Minnesota has 20,921 firefighters at 757 active fire departments, the majority of which are volunteer or paid on-call departments.
 - When compared to the state’s size of 86,943 square miles, this equates to about one firefighter per four square miles. (On average, each department covers 115 square miles.)
 - Of Minnesota’s state population* of 5,519,952 people, less than 0.3 percent of all Minnesotans are a firefighter.
- (*Based on the U.S. Census Estimate for July 1, 2016)

LAST CALL FOR BUS TOUR 2017

Want to know where your electricity really comes from? Heard about the games, prizes and movies while on a bus to North Dakota? Well, the three-day Basin Electric Bus Tour trip could be just the mini-vacation that you need.

This is a great opportunity to tour the Oahe Dam, Basin Electric and a working coal mine at Beulah, ND. It is open to members of Central Electric Cooperative for a small fee. For just \$25 per person, you will receive roundtrip transportation, a two-night stay in Bismarck, ND, and meals.

Members who have never participated in Central Electric's bus tour will be given first priority to participate in 2017. Registrations for first-time participants will be accepted until June 1st or until the bus is filled. After June 1st, seats will be filled with members who previously participated in the bus tour. They will be selected based on how many years have passed since their participation.

Each member is limited to two seats on the bus tour, and all participants must be at least 18 years of age.

If you are interested in participating in the tour, **please give Patrick Soukup a call by June 1st** at 605-996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892 or find the application at www.centralec.coop. You will be asked to complete and return the application with your \$25 per person fee.

For just \$25 per person, you will receive roundtrip transportation, a two-night stay in Bismarck, ND, and meals.



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Services



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Services Available for both Members & Non Members

Regional Dateline

May 19

Tesla Car Rally, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 19-20

Sioux Empire Film Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

May 19-21

State Parks Open House and
Free Fishing Weekend
Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 20

Turkey Days, Huron, SD
605-352-0000

May 20-21, 28-29

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-715-9580

May 26-27

State Track Meet
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

May 26-28

South Dakota Kayak Challenge
Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

May 30

26th Annual Kids Art Fest
Yankton, SD, 605-665-9754

June 2-3

Rockin' Ribfest, Yankton, SD
605-665-2263

June 2-3

Howard Headers Cruise Night
and Car Show, Cruise Night on
Friday at 6 p.m., Car Show on
Saturday, Registration 10:30 to
Noon, Show Noon to
4 p.m., Howard, SD
Contact Gary at 605-203-1086



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAJA SHRINE CIRCUS

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

May 26

Foothills Rodeo Queen Contest
Wessington Springs, SD

May 27-28

SDRA Foothills Rodeo
Wessington Springs, SD

July 1

Naja Shrine Circus
Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402

June 2-4

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival
Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

June 2-4

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show
and Sale, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 2-4

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 2-4

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD
pattironfeldt@hcinet.net

June 3

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD
605-692-7539

June 9-10

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD
Contact Brett Rauterkus
at 605-722-1430

June 17-18

Coin and Stamp Show
Sturgis, SD, 605-381-4625

June 17-18

South Dakota Peach Festival
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

June 23

148th Annual Midsummer
Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran
Church, Vermillion, SD
605-253-2575

June 23-24

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD
Contact Howard Bich at
605-275-6891

June 23-25

South Dakota Scavenger's
Journey, antiques, collectibles
flea markets and more
from Murdo to Plankinton
Vendor space available
www.scavengersjourney.com

June 30

Naja Shrine Circus
Bowman, ND, 605-342-3402

July 7-8

Senior Games, Madison, SD
Bernie Schuurmans at
605-270-3327

July 19-22

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD
Contact Kristi Lintz at
605-394-4168

July 21-22

Senior Games, Brookings, SD
Contact Traci Saugstad at
605-692-4492

July 22

Holy Smoke Car Show
O'Gorman High School
Sioux Falls, SD
www.holysmokecarshow.org

September 15-16

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show
Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
605-248-2526