



Annual training for critical situations

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative held pole-top rescue safety training April 28 at its Mandan Service Center. In this issue, learn the process a lineman would go through to lower a stranded co-worker to the ground.



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Journeyman Lineman Brady Zachmann

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY



Safety training saves lives

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Leadman **Gary Fitterer** used the pole's cross-arm to secure his rope around the 200-pound mannequin.

In June 2008, the *Stabroek News* in Guyana reported an electric lineman became stranded on a pole when the support he was standing on gave way and wires began sparking. His thighs and lower right leg were burnt, and he was rendered unconscious. He hung limply in his safety belt, until one of his co-workers performed a pole-top rescue and lowered him to the ground.

The injured lineman was wearing the necessary personal protective gear, and thankfully he survived.

Accidents like this are not common, but they do happen. Linemen can also be stranded on a pole if they experience heat stroke, a heart attack or other condition that disables them and prevents them from climbing down. That's why the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires linemen to receive pole-top safety training on an annual basis.

The 12 linemen who work for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative receive this refresher course from safety instructors with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). During this year's training, held April 28 at the Mandan Service Center, each lineman had to climb a pole, secure a rope around the waist of a 200-pound mannequin and lower the "body" to the ground.

NDAREC Safety Instructor Steve Homes discussed different techniques on how to secure the rope. In areas where Mor-Gran-Sou Electric has a three-phase distribution system, a lineman could use the pole's cross-arm to secure his rope. In other areas that have a single-phase line without a cross-arm on the pole, a lineman could use a screwdriver to secure the rope after the tool has been pounded into the pole.

Remaining vigilant in their culture of safety and regularly reviewing what they already know can make the difference between life and death in a critical situation for linemen who sometimes work long hours in extreme weather conditions to restore electric service following an outage.

Thanks to regular safety training sessions including pole-top rescue, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's linemen are better equipped to react quickly and efficiently, and hopefully bring their co-worker and friend home safely to his family, should an accident ever occur. ■



Journeyman Lineman **Cody Graetz** pounded a screwdriver into the pole to secure his rope, before threading it around the stranded mannequin.



Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for eight Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for election in July. In 2016, the three board positions sought include: one Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position, and one for the Morton County position.

The board of directors set March 10 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 22. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 30, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

Grant County:

Vernard Frederick, Flasher
Delwin Petrick, Elgin

Mandan Area:

Leland Barth, Mandan
Cody J. Hatzenbuhler, Mandan
Clyde Howe, Mandan

Morton County:

Dennis Dutke, Mandan
Jay Larson, Almont
Travis Wolf, Mandan

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed later this month. ■

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811
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Call before you dig.

Learn more at:
**Safe
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Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative
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**Annual
Meeting
2016**

**FORT YATES, ND
PRAIRIE KNIGHTS
CASINO & RESORT**

JULY 15, 2016

*Learn about co-op issues;
cast your vote and elect three members
to serve on the board of directors;
and enjoy a hearty meal.*



Baumgartner



Franklund

Managers' Message

Compliance requirements protect Mor-Gran-Sou and increase reliability

BY CHRIS BAUMGARTNER AND DON FRANKLUND,
CO-GENERAL MANAGERS

In April 2013, a sophisticated sniper attack on the Metcalf transmission substation near San Jose, California, resulted in the most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the bulk power grid at that time. While the attack resulted in significant damage to electrical infrastructure, it did not cause major power disruptions because officials were able to reroute electricity remotely.

The Metcalf incident is only the beginning. In December 2015, a cyber-attack on a regional electrical distribution utility in Ukraine resulted in more than a quarter-of-a-million homes being out of power for hours. Only through quick action by its system operators were they able to limit the damage.

While it's hard to imagine something like this happening in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area, it's not a stretch of the imagination.

In 2015, a *USA Today* analysis of federal energy records found that about once every four days, part of the nation's power grid is struck by a cyber or physical attack. If criminals would be successful in taking down part of our national electric grid, it could leave millions in the dark and cause billions of dollars in economic damages.

How are electric cooperatives across the state and nation protecting themselves from these attacks? We are affiliated with NERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NERC develops and enforces reliability standards; assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the bulk power system through system

awareness; and educates, trains and certifies industry personnel. FERC regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce; protects the reliability of the high-voltage interstate transmission system through mandatory reliability standards; and enforces FERC regulatory requirements through imposition of civil penalties and other means, among other responsibilities.

Our compliance team holds regular meetings with representatives of NERC and FERC to discuss issues that affect the way we do business as electric cooperatives. At this time, our distribution cooperative is preparing for a number of updates that may be occurring in the future, including changes to physical and cyber security.

Mor-Gran-Sou is taking a proactive approach by making some changes to our electrical system before they become required. We are in the process of limiting access to our substations to increase our physical security. To better protect our cyber security, we have redesigned our computer networks and limited the number of employees who have access to information.

Our power providers are also working to beef up our cyber security. Last November, Basin Electric Power Cooperative participated in a national NERC security exercise to self-assess its emergency response and recovery plans through a simulated exercise that took place across North America. The exercise, known as GridEx III, is designed to enhance the coordination of cyber and physical security resources and practices within the industry, as well as communication

with government partners and other stakeholders, including those in Canada and Mexico.

More than 350 organizations including Basin Electric worked together to protect the grid in simulated physical and cyber security breaches. With the completion of the exercise, a senior compliance engineer with Basin Electric reported that it was encouraging to see Basin's employees show a high level of resiliency in the face of threats.

Making changes at our substations and within our networks is not cheap, easy or fast. But we've seen how advanced technology can streamline the way we do business and ultimately make our cooperative more effective and efficient. And at the end of the day, it is our responsibility to you, our member-owner, to provide reliable electric service. In Mor-Gran-Sou planning for future compliance changes and making improvements now to protect our own electric system, we are also doing our part to increase reliability across the bulk electric system. It is an investment in resources and employees that will serve our members well now and in the future.

We will continue to monitor terrorist attacks nationally and internationally, and keep holding conversations with NERC and FERC as to what compliance changes might be coming down the pike that will affect our cooperative, and how they might affect you, our member-owner.

Thank you for taking the time to read your *North Dakota Living* local pages, and stay on top of these important issues. ■



Highway 21 Treasure Hunt June 17-18

Discover some treasures during North Dakota's 15th annual 100-mile rummage sale, the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Friday and Saturday, June 17-18.

"With approximately 100 rummage sales along the 100-mile route, this is the most unique rummage sale event in North Dakota," says Luann Dart, Elgin, who coordinates the event. "And there are some great items being listed for sale this year. You can find lists this year on the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt Facebook page, as well as at certain locations in each community."

During the event, communities along Highway 21 in southwestern North Dakota host citywide rummage sales. Participating communities include Flasher, Carson, Leith, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. Also watch for sales along Highway 6 in the St. Anthony area, as well as rural sales along the route.

"Anyone who enjoys rummage sales will love this event," Dart says. "It's fun to travel the route and discover lots of treasures."

For more information on the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, contact Luann Dart at 701-584-2172. ■



**You can't always SEE
the hidden dangers after the storm...**

When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and **be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.**

Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, **warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility.**

For additional information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Job and Career Fair highlights opportunities close to home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



From left, Grant County High School students **April Wetzstein**, **Kara Levorsen** and **Alexis Bentz** learned that they could be the state's first linewoman working for an electric cooperative. Or, they could be the next member services representative, bookkeeper, meter or engineering technician.



Krystal Eckroth (left), human resources assistant with Innovative Energy Alliance, and **Julie Armijo**, Member Services Representative II for Mor-Gran-Sou, met with students during the Job and Career Fair on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou. They talked about the variety of positions held at Mor-Gran-Sou, and how working at a cooperative offers stability, flexibility — and fun. They also talked about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program and encouraged students to apply during next year's essay-writing contest.

Students who live in rural communities have job opportunities close to home. That's the message Grant County High School students learned at the Job and Career Fair, held May 11 in the Elgin Community Center. The event was sponsored by Elgin Community Betterment (ECB).

About 55 students grades 9 through 12 visited with representatives from 12 area businesses and the U.S. Air Force to learn the variety of employers and job positions that exist in the immediate area.

Jared Bollom, the school's counselor, said the goal of the event

was to give students a hands-on opportunity to gain employment in their local community, and to see that career options are available and will be available for them in the future.

"Students were given a map of the Community Center and participating businesses. In order to insure they were interacting with the businesses, they had to ask each business to sign a sheet in order to be eligible for a prize drawing," Bollom said. Three qualifying students earned a \$25 certificate for Elgin bucks. The certificate can be used like cash at participating Elgin businesses.

This was the first Job and Career Fair hosted by the ECB. Luann Dart, development director, says the seven-member board felt it was a success.

"It opened the dialogue between the students and businesses about the jobs and careers available. Several applications were taken by students and the businesses said the students asked great questions," Dart said.

Later that afternoon, the Job and Career Fair was opened to adults who might be interested in obtaining employment locally.

Based on attendance and interest, the ECB is already discussing the possibility of hosting a similar event next year. ■



Dirt and spirits fly at Flasher school groundbreaking

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

On Wednesday, May 11, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Flasher Public School to celebrate the culmination of more than two years of research, planning, committee meetings, public meetings and board meetings. Construction will soon begin on a new school just south of the existing school, which was built in 1911. It will be closed for good next summer, after 106 years of use.

“Assistance from staff, students, parents and community members have made this project a reality,” said Superintendent Judy Zins before students, parents and teachers symbolically broke dirt. “We can’t thank these groups enough for their support, or forget the community taxpayers who are funding this project.” She also thanked GT Architecture, ONE (Obermiller Nelson Engineering),



Superintendent Judy Zins addressed students, parents, teachers and community members at the groundbreaking ceremony. She honored those who came together in 1911 to build a school that has lasted more than 100 years, and commended those involved for building a new school that will provide a safe and healthy environment in which students will learn for the next 100 years.

JE DUNN Construction and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative for

their ongoing work and assistance.

“Today is a celebration of community,” Zins continued, noting the goal of building a safe, healthy environment in which students can learn for the next 100 years.

School Board President George Leingang also spoke at the ceremony, noting the community expands in all directions.

“We come from St. Gertrude, Raleigh, Carson, St. Anthony, Solen, Fallon and even Mandan; we come from all those communities — and we come here to school in Flasher. When we come here, we are all Flasher Bulldogs,” he said to resounding cheers. “It takes a lot of communities to make this community work. And for the future, we’ll keep bringing those communities together to make this school flourish.”

Leingang says the plan is to start moving into the new school around June 15, 2017. ■



It was blustery on May 11. Even though many kids and adults alike ate dirt when shovels lifted, their smiles and enthusiasm couldn't be tamped.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: April 27, 2016

- Approved the March 30, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA), LLC
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Accepted financial report from the Chief Financial Officer
- Heard and accepted the 2015 Audit report given by Brady Martz & Associates, P.C.
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed and accepted director's and attorney's expenses report for March
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

June 29 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 9 a.m. CT

July 15 at Prairie Knights Casino & Resort in Fort Yates at 2 p.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 800-750-8212 or 701-597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Leland "Judge" Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved Board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com, or call the office for a copy.

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed to honor the July 4th holiday

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency on Monday, July 4.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 19

HEAD WEST FOR LESS!

More than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a **15-percent discount** in association with:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- A Pitchfork Steak Fondue

- Lodging at the Bunkhouse Motel, Badlands Motel or Rough Riders Hotel
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you travel to beautiful Medora anytime this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and use the code TOUCH2016 to receive your 15-percent savings. Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code TOUCH2016 at the door. ■



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