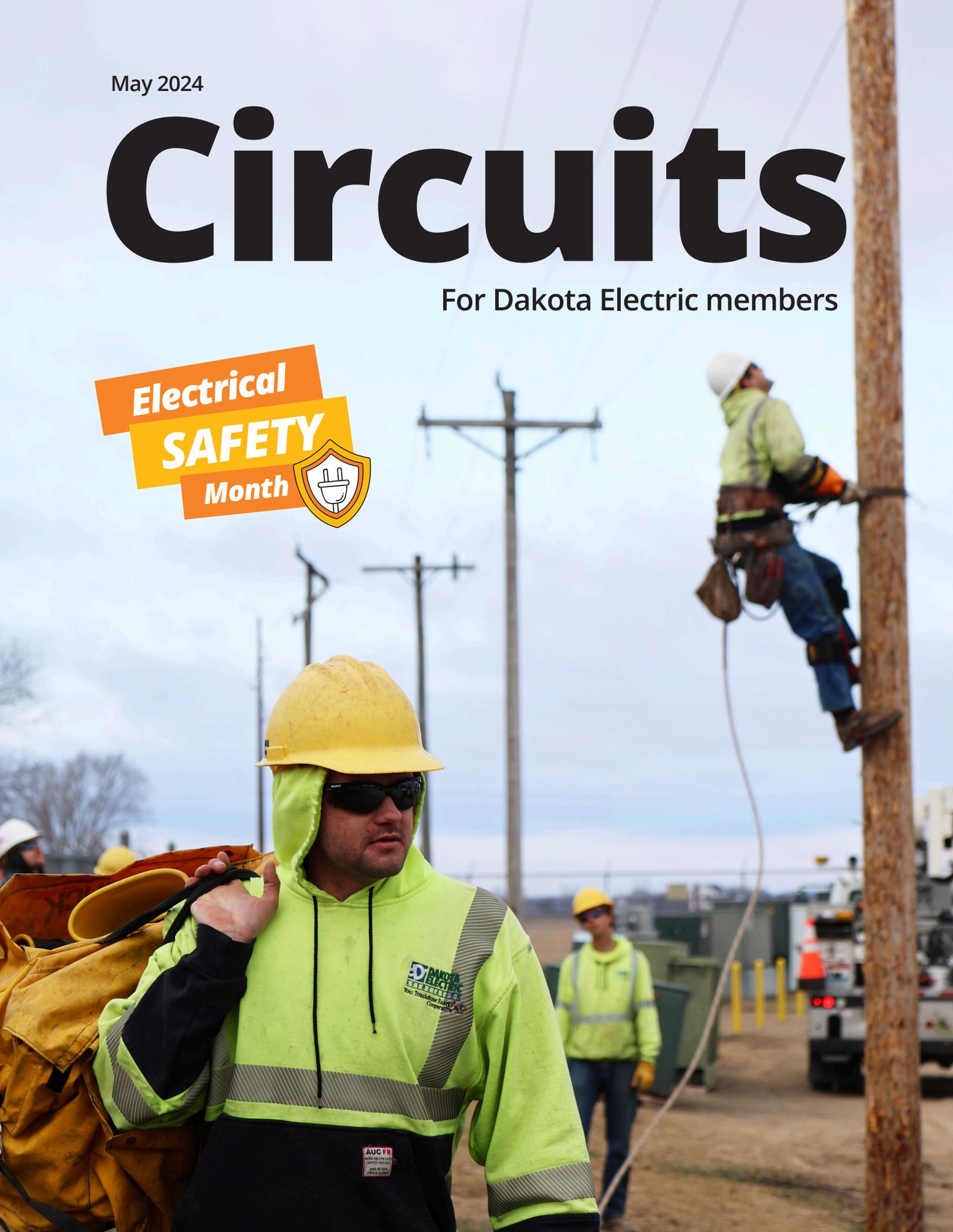


May 2024

# Circuits

For Dakota Electric members

**Electrical**  
**SAFETY**  
Month 



## CAREERS

### BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers  
HRresources@dakotaelectric.com  
651-463-6301

## CONTACT US

### Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409  
Minnesota Relay Service 711  
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

### Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### 24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

### Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or  
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166  
www.gopherstateonecall.org

### New & Existing Services

651-460-7500

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota  
Electric® are registered service marks of the  
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to  
change without notice. Funds are limited and  
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 2

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Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director | Vice Chair*  
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
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### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft

CIRCUITS | MAY 2024

# Safety

*It's National Electrical Safety Month and at Dakota Electric, safety is more than just a priority — it's a core value that guides everything we do. Our recent annual Safety Week was a testament to this commitment, as we engaged our employees in a series of activities designed to reinforce safety protocols and enhance preparedness. Here's a glimpse into the highlights of the week:*

Dakota Electric's Safety Week began with powerline safety demonstrations, providing valuable insights into potential hazards and mitigation steps. Additionally, the Personal Threat Alarm Test ensured readiness to respond swiftly to any potential threats.

On Tuesday, line crews showcased their proficiency in pole top rescue operations, enhancing both rescue skills and confidence in handling emergencies. Meanwhile, employee tours offered firsthand insights into field equipment and training processes, fostering continuous learning.

Wednesday focused on preparedness with a hazardous

weather drill, ensuring all employees are equipped to handle adverse weather situations effectively. Thursday featured a clean-up day, promoting teamwork and addressing safety concerns in the workplace.

To conclude the week, a motivational speaker inspired employees to prioritize safety in both their professional and personal lives.

Dakota Electric's Safety Week underscores our commitment to fostering a culture of safety, ensuring it remains a top priority in all our operations to safeguard the well-being of employees and the communities we serve.



# Stay **back!**

Know the difference between types of line and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware it could be live and dangerous!



## Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.



## Cable Wire

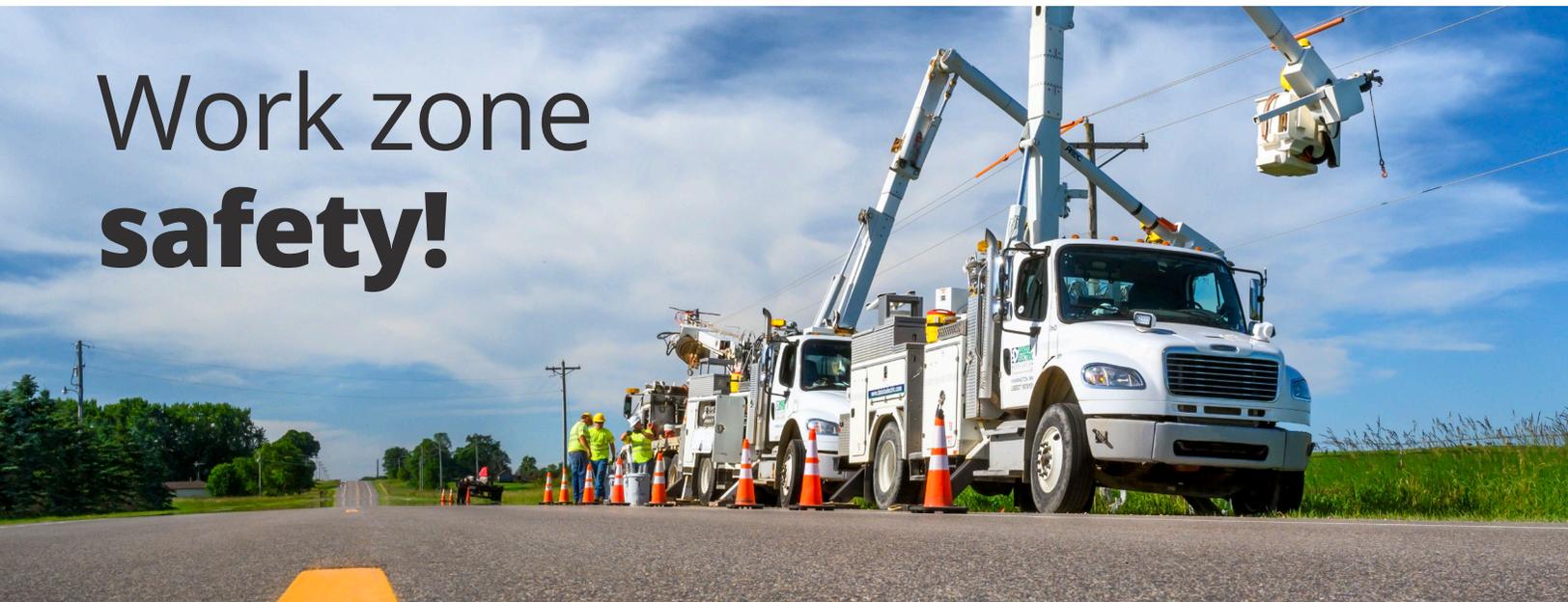
Cable TV/fiber optic wires are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.



## Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

# Work zone **safety!**



If you see roadside crews, please slow down and move over when possible.

Our utility trucks are equipped with flashing lights and reflective materials. Work zones are marked on the road with orange cones and our lineworkers wear reflective clothing when working near roadways, but even with these measures in place, work zones are dangerous. Below are some tips to keep yourself and others safe in work zones.

- Pay attention and limit distractions
- Follow posted signs
- Slow down
- Allow plenty of room
- Remain calm



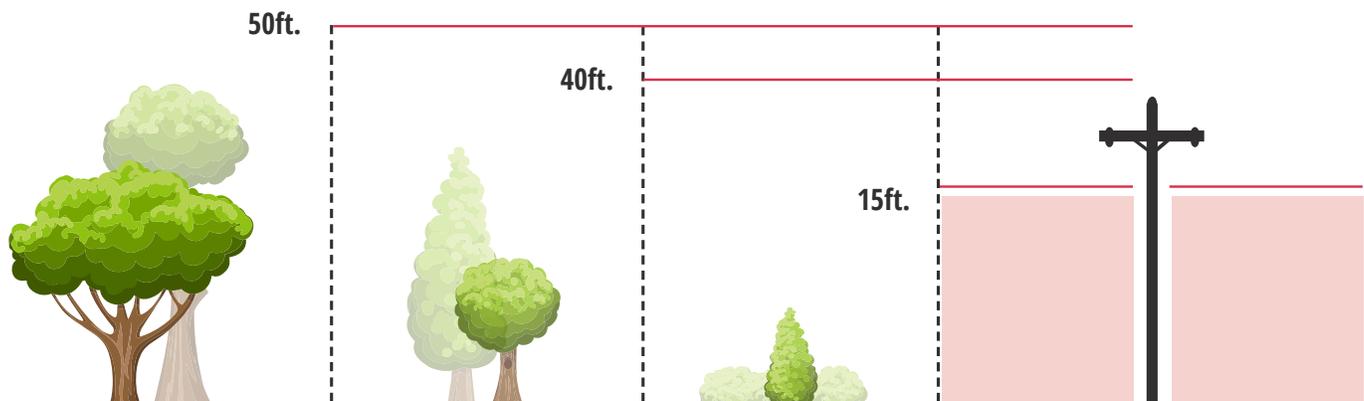
# Planting guidelines

Landscaping is a great way to increase the value of your property and save energy, but trees and shrubs planted too close to power lines and other electrical equipment can create both safety and reliability concerns. You can help maintain power line access and clearance by planning ahead before planting trees and shrubs. These guidelines help ensure a safe and reliable service for all Dakota Electric members.

Visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/trimming-and-planting](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/trimming-and-planting) for more information.



Always call 811 or  
1-800-252-1166  
before you dig.



## OVER 40FT.

No maximum tree height. Keep a 50ft. minimum distance.

## 40FT.

Maximum tree height. Keep a 40ft. minimum distance.

## 15FT.

Maximum tree height. Keep a 15ft. minimum distance.

## NO TREE ZONE

Please do not plant trees less than 15ft. from poles.



## Benefits of tree trimming

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members.

In 2020, we began a five-year plan to clear certain areas in our service area, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

*Vegetation management improves service reliability for you — our members!*

# 2024 Youth Tour winners

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour was established to inspire our next generation of leaders. Students who participate receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about the cooperative business model, meet elected officials, visit monuments and museums, tour federal agencies and discuss issues that are most important to them.

Dakota Electric has sent approximately 160 students since 1967. This commitment to our community is a fundamental part of what makes us more than your average utility.

Below are the students that Dakota Electric will be sponsoring for this year's Youth Tour.



**Elizabeth Aars**

Lakeville North High School  
Grade 11



**Makayla Magnuson**

Lakeville North High School  
Grade 11



**Ebrahim Mohamed**

Eastview High School  
Grade 11



**Tanisha Senapati**

Eastview High School  
Grade 12



**Matthew Vengal**

Eastview High School  
Grade 10



**Adonias Ketema**

Rosemount High School  
Grade 12  
*Alternate*

## Upcoming maintenance work

Dakota Electric is conducting transformer maintenance in specific areas, identified by assessments or member requests regarding rust. This involves inspections and maintenance of transformers and switchgear. To maintain optimal safety and accessibility, we adhere to strict clearance specifications around transformers. We understand that these specifications may not always be readily apparent to members, as stickers indicating clearance requirements can degrade over time. We're taking proactive measures to ensure compliance and safety, including repainting streetlight posts affected by fiberglass blooming (white or gray spots).

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to improve the reliability and longevity of our electrical infrastructure. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming work, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

## Reminder

If you have a load control receiver, we encourage you to start your AC to make sure everything is connected properly before the summer heat hits. Call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 if you have any questions.

## Annual meeting & election results

The 2024 annual meeting reports are available to view by visiting [www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election).

This edition of *Circuits* was sent to print prior to the results of the annual election. Election results are posted at the link above.

## Let us know how we're doing!

Scan the QR code to take a short survey, or visit, [www.surveymonkey.com/r/DakotaElectric](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DakotaElectric).





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**  
May 23, 8:30 a.m.
- **Twins Clinic**  
June 8, 9-11 a.m.  
Dodge Middle School,  
Farmington

PRSR STD  
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ASSOCIATION

### CONNECT WITH US!



# FREE! YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!

## SATURDAY, JUNE 8 / FARMINGTON, MN OPEN TO EVERYONE, AGES 6-12!



Dodge Middle School Fields  
4200 208th St. W.  
Farmington, MN 55024



9-11 AM



REGISTER AT:  
[PLAYBALLMN.COM](http://PLAYBALLMN.COM)



Hosted by Dakota Electric Association. Sponsored by  
Great River Energy.