

APRIL 2024

# BUTLER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

BUTLER PPD'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SAFE, LOW COST, RELIABLE, EXCELLENT ELECTRIC SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE AREAS THAT WE SERVE.

## Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18

Lineman Appreciation Day is made to honor the hard work and dedication of electrical lineworkers. They are our heroes in hard hats that answer the call and go out in all weather to keep the lights on for us. On April 18th we say an extra big "thank you" for your dedication to Butler PPD and our customers. Without our linemen we'd be in the dark.



## Administrative Professionals Day is April 24



Every day we are grateful but on April 24th, we say an extra "thank you" to the ladies who greet you on the phone or in person, the ladies who help navigate you to the correct contact at the District and who do it all with a smile! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Butler Public Power District and our customers!

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From the desk of...  
THE GENERAL MANAGER



## 2023 Annual Outage Report

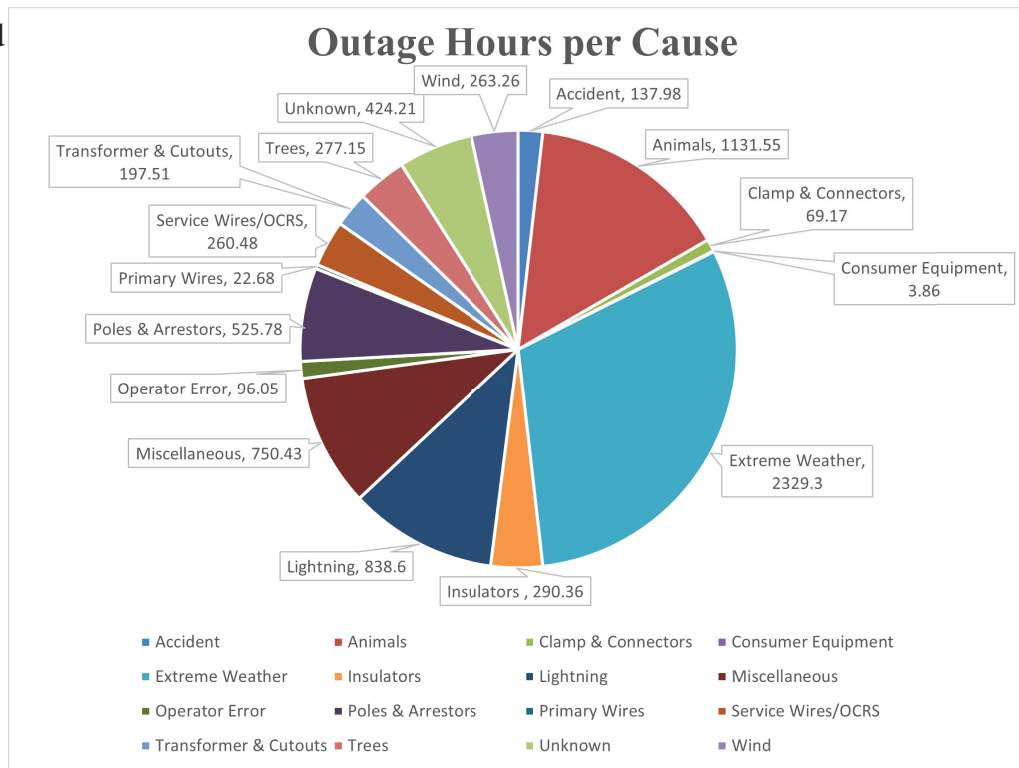
Annually, Butler Public Power District compiles all of the system outages for the year and puts together the annual outage report. The annual outage report for 2023 was one of the best in recent history. Mother Nature, most of the time, is a driver for outages through the year. I believe one of the reasons for our great results in 2023 was that our area was in a drought for the second year. We didn't have the lines of thunderstorms roll through our service territory as we have had in years past. Once in a while, either in late fall or early spring, we can encounter ice on the lines and wind that causes galloping and most likely ends up in an ice storm with lots of outages. In 2023, the service territory stayed clear of any icing events.

With our low number of outages in 2023, we also have to give a lot of credit to our line crews that perform maintenance on our overhead lines. Crews perform line patrol on almost a daily basis. Even though our crews have jobs to build or rebuild services, as they are driving up and down roads they are always keeping an eye out for problems that could cause a power outage. Whether it's making repairs on a pole, stopping and spraying small trees under the line or stopping and trimming a tree burning in the lines, this all helps prevent outages for our customers.

For many years now, the district has had our own tree crew. Our crew cuts and trims trees on almost a daily basis. Over the years we have also upgraded our equipment for the tree crew to try and make their daily tasks safer and simpler. We have purchased a skid loader that we can mount a tree grinding attachment to. We upgraded our wood-chipper, that has a winch to drag limbs to the chipper. We utilize skid loaders to lift and move large limbs that are cleared under and around the power lines. This district crew is also asked from time to time to help build and rebuild services which bring me to my final topic. Several years ago, the Board of Directors approved the Operations Department hiring a tree contractor to help with tree clearing. When you have 1,700 miles of line, there are lots of trees that need to be cut or trimmed. Having an extra contract crew trimming and removing trees across our service territory has been a game changer for the district.

These are some of the reasons behind one of the best annual outage reports in many, many years! I want to thank our line crews again for all the work that they do to help Butler Public Power District provide safe, low cost and reliable electric service to our customers!

If you have any comments or questions, please contact General Manager Mark Kirby.





## April 15 - 19 is Work Zone Awareness Week

Have you heard of the Move Over law? A driver approaching a stopped emergency or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights and traveling, or parked, in the same direction is required to vacate the lane closest to the vehicle or reduce speed and maintain a safe speed while passing the vehicle.

Keep an eye out for our lights, signs, cones and especially in the evening, reflective gear.

Please remember to slow down and stay focused when approaching roadside work zones. Let's all do our part to keep our crews safe!



## April is Safe Digging Month

### Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 business days** prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at

Safe Electricity.org

## NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP



**July 22-26, 2024**

High school students, grades 9 - 11  
Camp Comeca, Cozad, Neb.

If you are currently in 9th, 10th or 11th grade and interested in applying for this all-expense paid camp, contact Amanda at Butler Public Power District. (402) 367-3081 or atopil@butlerppd.com

### WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Three campers will be selected to serve as Nebraska's Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2024.

## NO, IT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER CAMP

I bet right now you are thinking that this is the zillionth camp flyer you have seen and that this camp is just like all the rest. It costs a bunch, you won't know anyone there, it's going to be awkward, and you won't get anything out of going, except maybe a sunburn.

### THINK AGAIN!

It's free, you are going to make life-long friends, and learn about the electric industry through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program. There's also swimming, sports, a banquet and a dance. A tour to the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

So don't delay...apply today!

### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

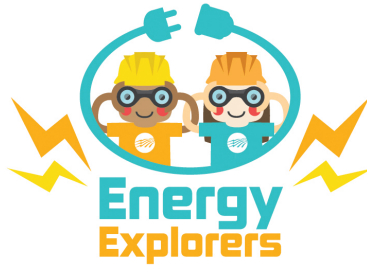
Now that you know this isn't just another camp, you may be asking yourself, "should I go?"

You should if you have:

- Leadership potential
- An awesome personality
- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people



# LINEWORKER SAFETY GEAR WORD SEARCH



Lineworkers use a variety of gear to stay safe while working near power lines and other electrical equipment. Read about their safety gear below, then find and circle the **blue** words in the puzzle.

- Safety **goggles** keep debris out of a lineworker's eyes while they work.
- Rubber **gloves** are insulated and protect lineworkers from electric shock.
- Steel toe **boots** provide extra protection when lineworkers lift heavy objects.
- **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from potential head injuries.
- Lineworkers wear a safety **harness** to prevent falls while climbing poles or working in a bucket.
- Lineworkers use a **hot stick**, an insulated tool made from fiberglass, when working on energized lines.



## BUTLER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
7:30am to 4:00pm

Website:  
[www.butlerppd.com](http://www.butlerppd.com)

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Mark Kirby

Board of Directors:  
Daryl Crook, President  
John Schmid Vice President  
Larry Dauel, Secretary  
Mark Blazek, Treasurer  
Brian Birkel  
Lyle Jakub  
Gary Kucera



### April Events

- April 13th - Waffleman Fundraiser - Senior Center, David City

*If you have an upcoming event that you would like listed, please let Amanda know.  
To avoid deadlines, please contact her 2 months prior to the event.  
402-367-3081 or atopil@butlerppd.com.*