



Linemen are making a difference fighting fires too

Volunteer firefighters aren't just your neighbors. They can be lawyers, doctors, school teachers and even line workers.

There are 1.1 million fire fighters in the U.S. Of them, nearly 815,000 are volunteers responding to a fire every 23 seconds.

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) linemen Jake Sell and Ryan Loomans, along with former lineman Cody Hansen (now Metering/Mapping Coordinator), have worked in fierce ice storms, sweltering heat and sub-zero temperatures to restore power. But they also face tough situations during their time off.

Jake, Cody and Ryan are dedicated (10-28-46) employees who also demonstrate a commitment to the community as volunteer firefighters. After spending hours working in the field, they turn their hard hats in for fire fighting gear.

These linemen relate fire fighting to line work in a number of ways. In both professions, they rely on their peers to watch their back. The sense of family,

teamwork and trust are essential in both jobs.

Just like responding to outages, fire fighting also requires firefighters to respond at a moments notice. A fire or outage call can happen at any time and you have to think quickly and react safely.

Safety procedures and training are of the utmost importance for line workers and firefighters. To keep these workers safe on the job, safety and health programs focus on prevention. NCE and the local fire departments invest time, energy and resources to engage their employees and volunteers on the importance of safety. When it comes to safety, consistency is key.

Being willing and able to help their neighbors is why volunteers Jake, Cody and Ryan joined their fire departments. The job demands a strong time commitment but being a part of their community is important to them. "You have to have a call to want to help and serve your community and do something for the better," explains Ryan.

Cover photo (left to right): Jake Sell is a first-year volunteer firefighter, while Cody Hansen is serving his fifth year on the Slayton Fire Department. Ryan Loomans is just finishing his second year with the Worthington Fire Department.

Energy saving tip

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Sept. 25..... Electric bills due
Oct. 8..... Columbus Day



Spot your location number in *Current Matters*

Find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue and you will receive a \$10 credit.



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

Stay focused on safety during harvest

During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With (28-50-45) the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps.

Keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating machinery near lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving equipment around power lines.
- Inspect the height of equipment for clearances.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact NCE at 800-776-0517.



Our Vision
Committed to improving the quality of our members' lives

We are “committed to improving the quality of our members’ lives.” Our employees and directors enjoy interacting with the members we serve. Over the last couple of years we have increased our community involvement. We realize that it is important to be involved and it helps us connect with you, while improving lives and strengthening the community.

Over 5,300 members participate in Operation Round Up. Members have already contributed over \$13,000 this year, funding nine nonprofit organizations and distributing eight scholarships.

Being involved in the community means building relationships with the community and giving back.

So far in 2018, NCE gave back...

8

Scholarships to local students

11

Community events in which NCE employees participated

1

Student job shadowed

1

Youth Tour participant selected

190 \$

Rebates distributed

Pictured above: Darren Engelkes, a sophomore from Murray County Central, job shadowed our Murray County linemen in July.

Understanding the Cold Weather Law

If you are having a hard time paying your utility bills this winter, it is important you understand the Cold Weather Law. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission set up the Cold Weather Law to protect residential customers from being shutoff if they cannot pay

their bill in full. This protection lasts from October 15 to April 15.

Please review the bill stuffer from last month that provides you with options, explains what to do if you meet the Cold Weather conditions and if you do not meet the conditions. Also in-

cluded in this bill stuffer are low cost energy efficiency tips that can help you manage your (516-50-007) usage.

Member Corner

A place to learn more about electricity and energy products

Sense Power Monitor

In the age of big data and connected devices everywhere, Sense Power Monitor offers an insight into your home electricity usage. Connecting Sense to your main electrical panel is simple. Installation (which should be done by a licensed electrician) is done in the main panel of your home and is fairly straightforward. Two current sensors clamp around the two main wires feeding your panel and then Sense connects to a 240v breaker, there's no rewiring required.

Once (22-60-2SL) installed in your panel, Sense connects to your home Wi-Fi network and begins sampling voltage and current at one million times per second. From here, machine learning detection algorithms work to distinguish one device from another. Over a short period of time, Sense begins detecting devices cycling on

and off and a profile is built for your electrically-connected devices at home. (9-27-50) If Sense's database can't pinpoint a device that's hooked up in your home, the app will ask you to help it identify the device to make the database more powerful.

Coming in at a price tag of \$299, the upfront cost of Sense is sure to scare some consumers away. Though the initial price can be a shock, the long list of benefits can easily help users be more energy conscious and help precisely determine what's going on inside their home electrically. Sense is also now offering a free beta testing of what they call "Sense HomeCheck", which helps users report incidents and help Sense build analytical data for appliance malfunctions, electrical problems, power events and more.



Nobles Cooperative Electric's Rib Cook-Off Winners — August 18 in Slayton

Be sure to join
us next year!



Judges Choice Winners

1. Let's Go Fishing
2. Slayton Fire Department
3. John Lang of Worthington

Peoples Choice Winners

1. John Lang of Worthington
2. Slayton Fire Department
3. Sparky's Masters



Country Cupboard Clean the Garden Soup


Janet Stoll
Ellsworth

Start with a large soup pot and saute one large onion (chopped) with one tsp. garlic until transparent. Do not brown. Add two cans of beef broth, sliced carrots, celery, diced potatoes, cabbage, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower and tomato juice for more liquid. Simmer and then add fresh tomatoes (chopped), peas, summer squash, zucchini and corn. You may decrease, increase or omit vegetables as desired. Add more tomato juice and broth to cover and simmer. Then add one T. Worcestershire, 1/4 tsp. chili powder, parsley flakes, garlic powder, salt and pepper to your taste. Simmer until all of the vegetables are tender. You may can this recipe for winter use as well.

Send your favorite **ground beef** recipe to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by September 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

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Official monthly publication

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517
Fax: 507-372-5148

Website

www.noblesce.coop

E-mail address

nce@noblesce.com

Office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
David Clarke, Sec./Treas. - 425-2646*
Bruce Barber, Director - 329-4399*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 442-8511*
Cindy Hokeness, Director - 478-4965*
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455*
**Telephone prefix 507*

Next Board Meeting

October 18, 2018

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

