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OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Visit us online at
www.opd5.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

April 21, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

May 5, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Overton Office
Board Room

June 16, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

Board meetings are subject to change. Please check our website, Facebook page or twitter feed a day prior to the meeting for a copy of the agenda.

Thank a Lineworker on April 12

By Judy Metz, Chairwoman, OPD5 Board of Trustees

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with OPD5, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees in our industry are lineworkers, who work tirelessly to ensure our communities receive uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions when most are sheltering comfortably at home?

This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While line workers may be the most visible employees at OPD5, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the District. Customer service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our line workers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent OPD5, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the OPD5 whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



Watts New

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

Know What's Below: Steps for Safe Digging

By Abby Berry

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! OPD5 reminds all customers who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State. Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

**Our offices will be closed on May 31, 2021
In observance of Memorial Day
Regular office hours will resume the next business day
after the Holiday is observed.**

Energy Conservation



How to prepare your home for the summer heat

By Keith Buchhalter

Summer is just around the corner and so are the hot desert temperatures. Here are some helpful tips to save energy and make sure you and your home are prepared before summer swoops in.

Give your HVAC system a checkup

Take the time now to have your system checked thoroughly to ensure that all components are working properly and to get ahead of any fixes that might be necessary before summer temperatures hit at full force. It's also recommended that you change your air filter to avoid energy-wasting dust clogs and clear any debris from around the vents or exhausts.

Change the direction of your ceiling fan/fans

Did you know that ceiling fans are designed to rotate differently depending on the season? In the summer, you should switch your fan settings to run counterclockwise at higher speeds in order to get a good breeze going. Also, remember to turn fans off when leaving a room that's not in use in order to save energy.

Prep your sprinkler system

Since water usage tends to increase in the summer, it's a good idea keep watering costs down by only water grass and plants in early morning hours or in the evening. The summer heat causes water to evaporate quicker. You can also save energy by installing a low-flow water fixture on your outdoor sprinkler.

Plant some shade trees

Planting shade trees on the side of your home that receives the most impact from the sun is a good way to ease the strain on your air conditioning unit, and

your energy bill. Placing a tree that will shield windows from the direct sun, mainly on the south and west sides of your home, will help reduce the amount of heat that builds up inside.

In Southern Nevada, we know that there is no shortage of sunlight, which is why it's key to allow breezes to flow through your property by creating a wind tunnel that will direct strong breezes to mill throughout your property. Planting a row of trees or a cluster of trees will help keep things cooler.

Keep your trees pruned

It's recommended that you keep any trees on your property pruned in order to keep them from blowing over during bouts of extreme wind that can be common during the summer months.



Photo by Gary Barnes from Pexels

Seal air leaks and close those blinds

Use caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows to keep the cool air from escaping. Also, in order to keep the heat out keep your blinds/curtains closed during the hottest parts of the day.

We share energy-saving tips on social media year-round, so make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @OPD5.

WATTS UP



Est. 1935



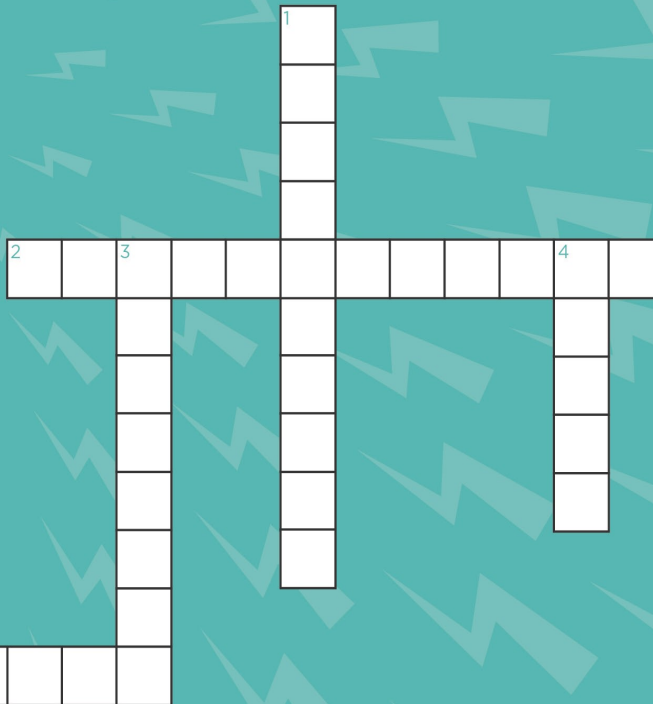
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.

WORD BANK:

- label
- chargers
- computers
- rechargeable
- power strip



1 DOWN: Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

2 ACROSS: For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

3 DOWN: Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.

4 DOWN: Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.

5 ACROSS: Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM @OPD5

Our Facebook page and twitter feed are valuable resources to provide our customers with news and updates whenever an unplanned power outage occurs.

You can access both thru our website, they are setup in a way that does not require you to have a Facebook or twitter account to view the information.

We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety and emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, do not report it via Facebook or twitter, we can't guarantee the delivery of messages received via social media to the right personnel in a timely manner.

In case of an unexpected power outage, please call us at (702) 397-2512 or (702) 346-5710. OPD5 has personnel on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including weekends and holidays to respond as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency.

Follow us on:



ANSWER KEY 1. DOWN: POWER STRIP 2. ACROSS: RECHARGEABLE 3. DOWN: CHARGERS 4. DOWN: LABEL 5. ACROSS: COMPUTERS