

BEING SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY – THERE'S NO BETTER FEELING

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



MY CO-OP

That's the feeling of Ben Bella, safety and compliance coordinator at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. "There is no better feeling than knowing you are doing everything you can to help educate children how to be safe around electricity.

This is a top commitment from the cooperative. According to Bella, "Eau Claire Energy

"...100 percent committed to training and educating children... about the dangers of electricity."

—Ben Bella, ECEC Safety and Compliance Coordinator

Cooperative and their employees are 100 percent committed to training and educating children, cooperative members, and community groups about the dangers of

electricity and aggressively seek out additional opportunities to spread this message." That commitment comes through safety demonstra-

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Above: ECEC Safety & Compliance Coordinator Ben Bella (right) kicks off the safety training for about 80 youngsters at Mayo's Safety Camp at Carson Park on July 10. Line Workers Kris Dubiel and Beau Blade (in background) spent the rest of the session demonstrating specific safety tips with the live powerline demo.

Below: BANG! That's what happens when an animal comes in contact with a high-voltage power line, as demonstrated by ECEC Line Worker Kris Dubiel.



CO-OP KID-POWER! ON PARADE



Lucas Milas (orange shirt) and Joel Staves (stars and stripes hat) relish the chance to ride atop ECEC's digger-derrick truck and equipment trailer in the parade.

It was a day for Co-op Kid-Power! in the Lions Club Fall Creek Parade on July 8. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative families, headed up by employees Randy Staves and Alex Kiraly, adorned a digger derrick truck with red-white-and-blue to

celebrate the stars and stripes. It's been an annual tradition for many years for cooperative employees to volunteer to show off some of the equipment they use on a daily basis to power up member homes, farms, and businesses. And, of

course, the Kid-Power from our truck shared candy with other kids along the route. *(Thank you to Jennifer Staves, spouse of ECEC Mechanic Randy Staves, for the photos.)*



Left: ECEC employee Alex Kiraly and family member Lucas Milas check things over on the digger derrick truck before starting it up for the Fall Creek Parade July 8. Right: Josey and Joybelle Staves sport ECEC hats and enjoy the view from the top of ECEC's digger-derrick truck.

LOOKING TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME?

Follow a local co-op family through the home building process

Have you ever thought about building your dream home, but didn't know where to begin? Should you hire a general contractor or do you handle those responsibilities on your own? In what order do the subcontractors complete their work? Who can design the home for you? How to stay on schedule? Are you concerned about having an energy efficient home? Where to go for help? How to set a budget? What if the builder goes over budget? What about financing?

Those are just a few of the questions families wrestle with when thinking about a new forever home. Over the next



few months we will be following a local family through the process of working with contractors to build their home. We will include items such as how they were able to choose the lot, the contractors, indoor and outdoor finishes, furniture, décor, and more. You will also hear from

experts in the field to get some tips on getting things done right and right on time.

Watch for our special co-op family groundbreaking at their new homesite in the September issue of the *WEC News*. You won't want to miss it!

MY CO-OP

Do The SUMMER SHIFT

- Wash your clothes before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Be a laundry superhero! Wash clothes in cold water.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov



Safety Camp (Continued from page 15)

tions presented by the co-op at local schools, community meetings, and the Mayo Safety Camp every July at Carson Park.

With Mayo Health Systems providing the Safety Camp for the past 20 years, Kimberly Strasburg, Mayo's injury

"It's always one of the kids' favorite presentations!"

—Kimberly Strasburg, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Mayo Clinic Health System

prevention coordinator, has been involved for seven years, coordinating the event for the past five, working with about 30 volunteers from the community. She says, "We are always so thankful for Eau Claire Energy's participation each year. It is always one of the kids' favorite presentations!" She

explained that the two-day day-time camp at Carson Park covers a variety of safety issues for elementary school children:

Electrical safety	Seatbelt safety	Summer safety
Helmet safety	Personal safety	Sports safety
Bike safety	Gun/ATV safety	Railroad safety
Internet safety	Basic first aid	Fire safety
Pet/animal safety	Weather safety	Boat/water safety,
Disaster preparedne	Bullying	and more...

Strasburg added, "Not only do they have a great time and meet new friends, they learn important safety lessons that they will carry through their lifetime. They are quite surprised to find out how much fun safety lessons can be!"

The Mayo Safety Camp is in partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District.

Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Source: SafeElectricity.org

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