

## Farmers Urged To Watch For Safety Hazards When Working By Power Lines

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Agriculture is a key component of Nebraska's economy. With planting season on the horizon, Nebraska Public Power District is encouraging farmers — many involved in spring planting at this time — to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

“We want all farm workers to look up, look down, look all around before starting work to see where potential contact between farming equipment and electric transmission and distribution lines could occur,” said NPPD Transmission and Distribution Manager Joel Dagerman.

NPPD urges farm workers to review their activities and work practices that take place around any power lines. Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 20 feet away from them. The minimum 20 foot distance is a 360-degree rule — below, to the side and above lines.

“It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives and reduce the possibility of creating a power outage that impacts more than just the farm. Some can create an outage in a local community,” said Dagerman. “Contact with power lines can have an adverse effect on an individual through the potential of electrocution, but also affected are homes, businesses and industry through the outage.”

Dagerman urged farmers not to raise or move a power line under any situation and to be aware of underground lines before digging and contact the Digger's Hotline (dial 811) before work begins.

Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contact happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Safety tips to avoid contact with power lines include:

- Talk to those working in the area of power lines to make sure everyone is on the same safety page.
- Use a second person as a spotter when working around power lines.
- Do not raise the arms of planters, cultivators or truck bed when moving vehicles;
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern farm machinery.
- Watch for radio antennas that extend from

the cab to fifteen feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines;

- Be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. —Non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.

The overhead electric wires are not the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If a guy wire is struck with farm equipment and breaks, or when making contact with electrical poles and wires, contact the electric utility in the area.

“It is also important for operators of farm equipment to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line,” Dagerman explained. “It is always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

If the power line is energized and the individual steps outside, they become the path and electrocution can be the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Remain inside the vehicle unless there is a fire or imminent risk of fire. In that case, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, thinking nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment. Alert the local electric utility that have highly-trained linemen that can assist and return a potentially dangerous situation back to normal.

“Taking a few minutes to start each work day to look up, look down, and look all around will be a great step in keeping our Nebraska farm workers safe and avoid the potential for hazards, as well as eliminating disruption of electric service,” Dagerman emphasized.

## Special Olympics Donation



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Barb Clayton, Sherry Duke, and Sam Mason receive a \$1500 donation to the Yankton Special Olympics from Tri-State Old Iron Association. Presenting the check is Rodger Harts, President, and Leon Becker, Treasurer of the club. Tri-State Old Iron is an antique tractor and small engine club that meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 PM at JoDean's Restaurant in Yankton. The purpose of the Association is to preserve the history and agricultural heritage of the farming community. According to the ladies this donation will be greatly appreciated by the Special Olympians.

### Car Talk

## This Old Man Came Rattling Home

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Ray  
**MAGLIOZZI**

**Dear Car Talk:**  
I drive a 2001 GMC Jimmy with about 230,000 miles on it. Recently, I drove it cross-country from New Orleans to Portland, Oregon, with a U-Haul trailer in tow. We had a few problems, but we completed the journey. Before we left, I had the mechanic in New Orleans give it a good lookover, which turned into replacing brake lines and installing a new emergency brake. However, we've recently noticed that there is a clicking noise coming from the passenger side of the car when we brake, though it seems to happen only when the following conditions all are in play: Going downhill + pressing the brakes + turning right. Any thoughts on what it might be? The car is such an old man at this point that I'm hesitant to put too much money into getting it fixed if it isn't a problem that will lead to me careening off a cliff in the near future. Thanks!

— Becki

Well, I can't rule out the cliff scenario, Becki. Start by checking all of your wheel nuts. Since you had brake work done, you may be thinking “brakes” first, but maybe the guy didn't tighten your wheel nuts and you have a wheel that's getting ready to fall off. Hey, it happens.

Assuming it's not that, then if you're lucky it's something simple, like a loose brake pad. If it tends to happen when you're stepping on the brakes lightly, then it could be just a loose pad. When you step hard on the brakes, there's really no room for pads to rattle because they're pushed up hard against the rotor. So if it's just during light or moderate braking, your mechanic can try installing a hardware kit that's designed for rattling brakes. It's called — get this — an anti-rattle kit.

If it's not a loose pad, then it could be something more dangerous. I would assume that when your mechanic did all that brake work in New Orleans, he would have noticed if an entire caliper were loose. But maybe he was suffering from a crawfish hangover that day and missed it. So you definitely want to have another mechanic take a look.

If it's a loose caliper, or a caliper bracket that's not attached properly to the steering knuckle, you'd be more likely to hear the rattling when you go over bumps, too. Because the caliper is a larger part and would be banging up

against its bolts, it would sound more like a knocking, rather than a rattling.

If your caliper were to fall off, you'd have trouble stopping the car and trouble controlling the car, because one wheel would be stopping while the other would not be. Then we're back to that cliff scenario.

So I'd advise you to check the wheel nuts, and then take it to a mechanic you trust right away, and just let him inspect the brakes.

Hopefully, he'll rule out anything drastic, and if it's just benign pad rattle, (which I'm sure our pharmaceutical companies are working on a cure for right now: “Do you, or someone you love, have BPR?”), then you can decide if you want to fix it or just live with it.

*Auto repairs can be costly! Save money by ordering Click and Clack's pamphlet “Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!” Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

*Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).*

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## USD's Rasmussen Named President-Elect Of Science Group

VERMILLION — Kay Rasmussen, M.S., M.L.S., Chair of the Medical Laboratory Science department at the University of South Dakota, has been named President-Elect of the South Dakota

affiliate of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS-SD). Rasmussen was also selected the 2015 South Dakota Omicron Sigma Award by ASCLS-SD. This award recog-

nizes Rasmussen's volunteer service to the laboratory science society, and it marks the second consecutive year she has been honored as the recipient of this award.

The Department of Medi-

cal Laboratory Science is one of 10 departments in the University of South Dakota's School of Health Sciences, the largest, most comprehensive health sciences school in the state.



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*Happy Birthday!*

The family of Karen Cihak requests a card shower in honor of Karen's birthday on May 6, 2015.

Greetings may be sent to:  
Sister James Care Center  
2111 West 11 St. Room #203  
Yankton, SD 57078

I am at Sr. James Nursing Home after a “vacation” at the Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls. Why? A blood infection. Cause? Simply bad luck. Sticky bacteria clung to my aortic valve, causing it to malfunction, leaving blood back into the heart. The choices were to ‘do nothing’ and that leads to congestive heart failure and a short life, or have valve replacement surgery, which should last a “lifetime”, which could be days or 20 years! I'd been on antibiotics via IV every four hours, 24/7 for 30 days, and will continue with that for possibly five to six weeks. Hopefully that will conquer the “little varmints” in my blood. Thank You for your love, prayers and moral support.


**Father Tim Lange**

**FREE Skin Cancer Screening**

**Tuesday, May 5th, 1pm - 4pm**

Yankton Medical Clinic®, P.C. Dermatologist, James Young, D.O., will be offering a free skin cancer screening clinic on May 5th. No appointment is necessary. Patients will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Limit of 50 patients. Upon arrival at the Clinic please check in at Section N receptionist, upstairs in the expansion.

\*For screening purposes. If further tests are needed, standard charges will be applied.



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1104 West 8th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 • 605-665-7841  
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