

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

APRIL 2024

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

A town with a unique history
and name **Page 12**

Sierra Grande has 17 guest rooms, as well as hot
springs for guest use. PHOTO BY LONNIE TUCKER



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

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800-548-4660

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Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



Boots

Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.

Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.



Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.



Source: NRECA; Design: Jeff Dionise



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ZINKEVYCH

Ready to dig in?

Call 811 before breaking ground

The weather is warming up, which means it's time to start planting flowers, tilling gardens and taking on those projects around the house you've been planning all winter.

April is National Safe Digging Month, and it's a great reminder to call 811 before getting your hands dirty on any home improvement projects that require breaking ground.

Based on your location, your call will be sent to the correct 811 call center. If you do plan to do some digging on your property, once you notify 811, you can make a request that underground utilities be marked with flags to avoid any incidents.

Utility lines are often located only a few inches below the ground's surface. Digging before calling 811 risks not only disrupting service for yourself and your neighbors, but you are also putting your own safety in danger.

Before beginning your project, check out this useful info for determining which color flags represent underground utility lines. These are used as a universal marking guide by the American Public Works Association.



White flag —
Proposed excavation



Red flag —
Power or electric



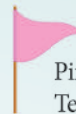
Yellow flag —
Oil, steam or gas



Orange flag —
Communications



Green flag —
Sewer and drain lines



Pink flag —
Temporary survey



Blue flag —
Potable water



Purple flag —
Reclaimed water

Notify — Call two to three days before starting to dig, or make a request online at nm811.org, to notify your local call center about your plans. They will let you know if there are any affected utilities in your area.

