



# Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

[www.crppd.com](http://www.crppd.com)

June, 2016

## ***Manager Memos -by Diana Reich***

Dear Consumers,

The following article came across my desk recently and I thought I would share it with you as it is reflective of what is occurring across the states in the electric industry. The article mentions Wisconsin but I suspect if one looked back at the history of electric bills in Nebraska they would follow the same course.

Reprinted with permission from Steve Mitnich, Editor-in-Chief, Public Utilities Fortnightly

### ***Minimum Charge in Electric Bills, in 1940***

The fixed minimum charge was a much higher percent of electric bills in 1940 in Wisconsin. This was common throughout the country, from Maine to Mississippi, Massachusetts to Montana.

Over the years, the fixed charge remained, well, mostly fixed with little adjustment for inflation. But the variable charges in electric bills continually rose with inflation and with growing kilowatt-hour consumption.

In Wisconsin, seventy-six years ago, the twenty-four investor-owned utilities had a fixed charge within the range of a dollar to five dollars per month. Most had a fixed charge in the narrower range of three to four dollars.

And there the fixed charge stayed, pretty much, through the decades since. Until recent regulatory proceedings on rate design.

Most customers in those days, in rural Wisconsin, paid an electric bill that was nearly all or all fixed charge. The weighted average bill totaled \$3.84 for forty kilowatt-hours of usage, \$4.00 for fifty, \$5.55 for a hundred, \$6.81 for a hundred and fifty, and \$9.32 for two hundred and fifty.

For the very heaviest users of electricity, the fixed charge was still forty percent or so of the total bill. For medium users, the fixed charge was fifty, sixty or seventy percent of the total bill. For light users, the fixed charge was the total bill.

These rate design debates we're having in 2016 seem new. But we're really revisiting rate design traditions. When it was recognized that much of what it takes to provide electric service has a fixed-cost nature.

## ***Quick as Lightning, You Could Lose Your Life***

Lightning strikes the United States millions of times each year, and every strike is a potential killer. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a thunderstorm. There are many myths and old wives tales about lightning. Some of them just might get you killed.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. To be as safe as possible you must seek shelter indoors or in an enclosed metal topped vehicle when there is a thunderstorm in the area. A safe indoor shelter is defined as a substantial building with a full roof, walls, and a floor. Unsafe structures include covered patios, open garages, picnic shelters, and tents. A safe vehicle is one that is fully enclosed like a hard-topped car, minivan, truck, etc. Unsafe vehicles include convertibles, motorcycles, golf carts, and any open cab vehicle.

The National Weather Service separates lightning myth from fact:

- **Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.  
**Fact:** Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground.
- **Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you will be electrocuted.  
**Fact:** The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid.
- **Myth:** If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.  
**Fact:** Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties.
- **Myth:** Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.  
**Fact:** Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike.
- **Myth:** If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.  
**Fact:** Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

One good way to stay safe from the threat of lighting is to plan ahead. Listen to the forecast to know if there is a danger of severe weather, and make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. It is a good idea to heed the advice of the National Weather Service, ***“When thunder roars, go indoors.”***



## ***Driving Blindfolded on the Highway***

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them-traffic lights, stop signs, and pedestrians-when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving-talking, texting, sending emails-is a growing threat to community safety. We have all seen distracted drivers, and most likely, we ourselves have used a phone while driving. Drivers do not realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes off the road and their hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers of Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your focus off driving-putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders. On the tragic end of the spectrum, victims' families, friends, co-workers and community are impacted.

Help promote a culture of safety. Encourage everyone in your family, your friends and neighbors to put down their cell phones and focus on the road when driving. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.



### ***EASY BARBECUE KABOBS***

- 1 (20 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1/3 cup bottled barbecue sauce
- 1 lb boneless; skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 red or green bell pepper cut into cubes
- 1 zucchini, sliced

Drain pineapple; reserve 2 tablespoons juice

Stir together reserved juice and barbecue sauce in small bowl; set aside.

Thread pineapple chunks, chicken, bell pepper and zucchini onto skewers. Brush with barbecue sauce.

Grill or broil kabobs 10 to 15 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink, turning and brushing occasionally with barbecue sauce. Discard any remaining barbecue sauce. Serve with coleslaw and green beans, if desired.

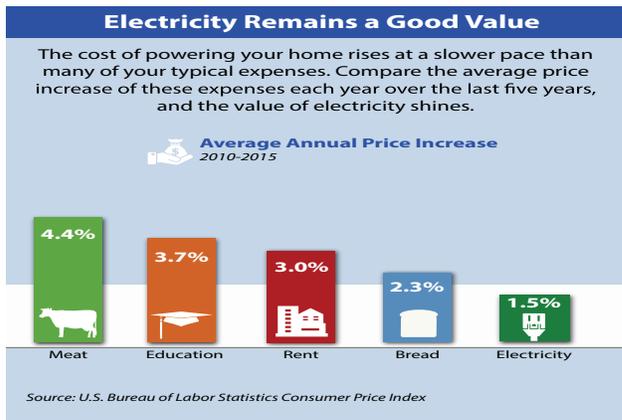
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

*When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are ventilated outside, not just in the attic.*

*Source: Energy.gov*

## Value of Electricity

You expect safe, reliable electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Chimney Rock PPD is committed to providing that service to you. We work to make sure our system is operating properly and safely. We do our part to make sure our customers receive a good value for the money they pay. The fact is, electricity is a good value today. More is spent annually on things like food, health care, insurance and entertainment than electricity. Americans spend four times more on equipment and services that use electricity than on the electricity itself.



## School is Out of Summer...

The final bell has rung and the notebooks are packed away and the kids are ready for some summer fun. Kids get a lot of cuts during the summer so it is important that every family have a well stocked first aid kit available just in case an injury would occur. Also be sure to keep a list of emergency numbers where they are easy to find. This includes the doctor's office, dentist's number, poison control, a number where mom and dad can be reached and other important numbers. We hope you have a safe and happy summer.

**Chimney Rock  
Public Power District  
128 W 8th St.  
P O Box 608  
Bayard, NE 69334**

### Board of Directors

President  
Gary Kniss

Vice-President  
Kevin Stuart

Secretary/Treasurer  
Richard Kildow

Larry Fiscus

Travis Petersen

Stan Propp

### Staff

Shauna Abbott

Chris Cox

Tina Douglas

Alvin Harimon

Ron Hubbard

DJ Kearns

Justin McAllister

Scot Ouder Kirk

Diana Reich

Brandon Wyckoff

Kande Zuber

**During normal office hours  
and after hours call:**

**(308) 586-1824 or**

**(877) 773-6300**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.