

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



May is Safety Month!

Since May is safety month, I felt it a perfect time to let you know what that means to us, to you the members, and what we are doing here at WOEC to help with both.

Safety will save both of us money, time, and possibly lives. We take it very seriously, both in our work and our work place. We also endeavor to stress the importance to you as well.

In the work place and in the field we have very specific safety guidelines and procedures we follow. We have a safety committee that reviews procedures, work place issues, and establishes guidelines to provide a safe working environment both inside and outside. We provide training to our staff to make sure we are current in safety procedures, equipment, and CPR training.

For our members, we provide information in the Ruralite throughout the year, especially during safety month. We maintain our lines and equipment and trim trees as best we can to keep our system safe and respond quickly when there is an emergency such as a line down.

Electrical problems in older homes account for nearly 55,000 fires every year. These blazes

cause more than 500 deaths, injure more than 1,400, and

rack up \$1.4 billion in property damage. The risk of such fires is significant, since half of all homes in the United States were constructed and wired prior to 1973, according to the U.S. Census Bureau – before the advent of garage door openers or home computers. Even more telling, one-third of U.S. homes were built before hair dryers or electric can openers were even invented!

“As each year goes by, Americans consume more energy in their homes,” remarks Brett Brenner, president of Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). “Many homes and electrical systems are simply being overburdened, which leads to fires, injuries, and deaths.”

Owners of older homes can upgrade their electric systems with newer fire prevention technology, such as arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home’s wiring and cut off power before a fire develops. Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, although they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Use of tamper-resistant receptacles would prevent most of the 2,400 burns suffered by children each year from outlets.

We are all committed to yours and our safety here at WOEC. If you become aware of a possible problem such as a downed line, please stay back from it and call us as soon as possible to fix the problem. Our members are a big help to us as the more eyes we have out there, the better it is for all of us. Thank you from all of us for all of your help in keeping you and us safe throughout the year.



All that remains of the restroom on the far side of Vernonia Lake after vandalism that occurred on the night of April 28.

Vernonia Grange has scheduled their annual Rummage Sale

The Vernonia Grange will hold its second annual Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Grange Hall, 375 North Street.

All proceeds will go to the Grange for its programs and continuing building improvements. If you have items to do-

nate, please bring them to the Grange, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on Friday, May 11. You might even find that unique but affordable item for Mom!

Questions? Call Grange Master Julie Prohaska at 503-429-7055, or Tobie Finzel at 503-705-2173.

VHS will be in 2012 Logging Exhibition

The 2012 Camp 18 Loggers Memorial Dedication and Logging Exhibition will be held Saturday, May 12, at the Camp 18 Logging Museum in Elsie, Oregon. All are welcome to attend this free event!

Founded by Maurie Clark and Gordon Smith back in the 1970s, the Camp 18 Logging Museum is a popular spot to stop on the way to the coast. The museum has grown over the years and through generous donations of time and money, the Camp 18 Logging Museum Loggers Memorial was completed in 2009. The beautiful building houses a bronze statue of a timber faller and contains logging memorabilia from many local families, as well as over 300 plaques commemorating loggers who’ve passed on. The 2012 Loggers Memorial dedication begins at 10:00 a.m. There will be about 20 new plaques dedicated this year.

Many local loggers will compete in the third annual Logging Exhibition as well as High School teams from Knappa, Scio, Sweet Home, Vernonia

and Philomath. The high school teams work hard to help keep the logging industry alive. The forestry teams compete in logging events and study all aspects of forestry, including biomass, timber harvesting, silviculture and forestry engineering. These programs help prepare students for careers in the industry, and serve as college prep for those going on to study forestry at the university level.

Team registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Exhibition begins at 11:00 a.m. Events include tree climbing, choker setting, splicing, double bucking and the hook tender relay race. There will be a tree falling com-

petition and a log loading competition, too.

Admission is free. Bring the whole family. Take a tour of all the great, old-time logging museum equipment. There will be food booths, hats, license plate frames, t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale.

Volunteers are needed! For more information or to volunteer, contact Mark Standley at 503-434-0148, logsafeinc@yahoo.com or Darlene Wilcoxon at 503-728-2050, darlene.wilcoxon@yahoo.com. Camp 18 is located at milepost 18 on Hwy 26, 42362 Hwy 26, Seaside.

See picture on page 1 for picture from the 2011 Exhibition.

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