

# PREMA

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**Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association**

Cover Story	1
Ways To Save Energy	2
Hazards Around Irrigation	3
Load Management	4

## STEVE ASH RETIRES

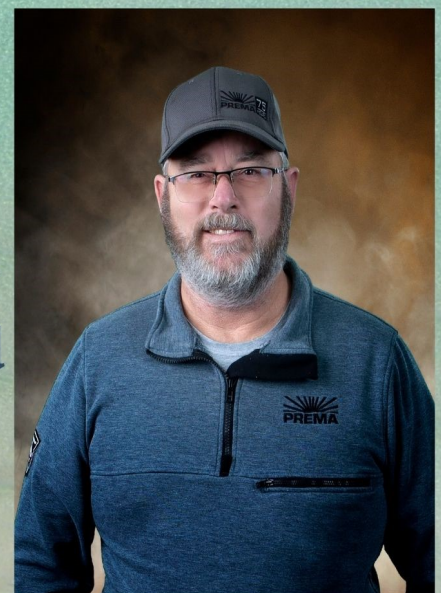
### THIRTY ONE YEARS OF DEDICATION TO PREMA



Steve Ash started with PREMA on April 23, 1990 and never looked back. His hard work has not gone unnoticed.



Thank you for being a tireless professional, a helpful coworker, and a good friend. Now go and relax!

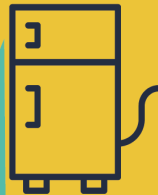


# FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



**1.** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



**6.** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



**2.** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



**7.** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



**3.** Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



**8.** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



**4.** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



**9.** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



**5.** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



**10.** SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

## Be Aware of Hazards around Irrigation Equipment

While irrigation equipment helps farmers combat dry spells and summer heat, it also introduces electrical hazards, including contact with overhead power lines, short circuits, and lightning strikes. Safe Electricity wants farm owners and workers to be aware of potential hazards and take steps to stay safe.

Take time to survey your surroundings. Look up and around, and make note of any power lines that could be close enough to come into contact with equipment. Maintain proper clearances.

The combination of water and electricity is also hazardous. The sprays of water from irrigation systems should not be near overhead power lines. Because the impurities in water serve as conductors of electricity, a stream of water reaching non-insulated wires will become the path for the deadly voltage and can energize the entire irrigation system.

Wiring maintenance should also be a safety priority. Read all operator manuals and follow the manufacturer's suggestions for inspection and maintenance. When working on the system, always turn off the power first. Also, make sure all equipment is grounded. Call a professional electrician to check the pump and wiring and to complete any needed repairs.

Storms can also pose dangers for irrigation systems and those who operate them. Stay away from the piping during lightning activity. Keep an eye on weather forecasts, so that you can plan to stay safely indoors during a thunderstorm.

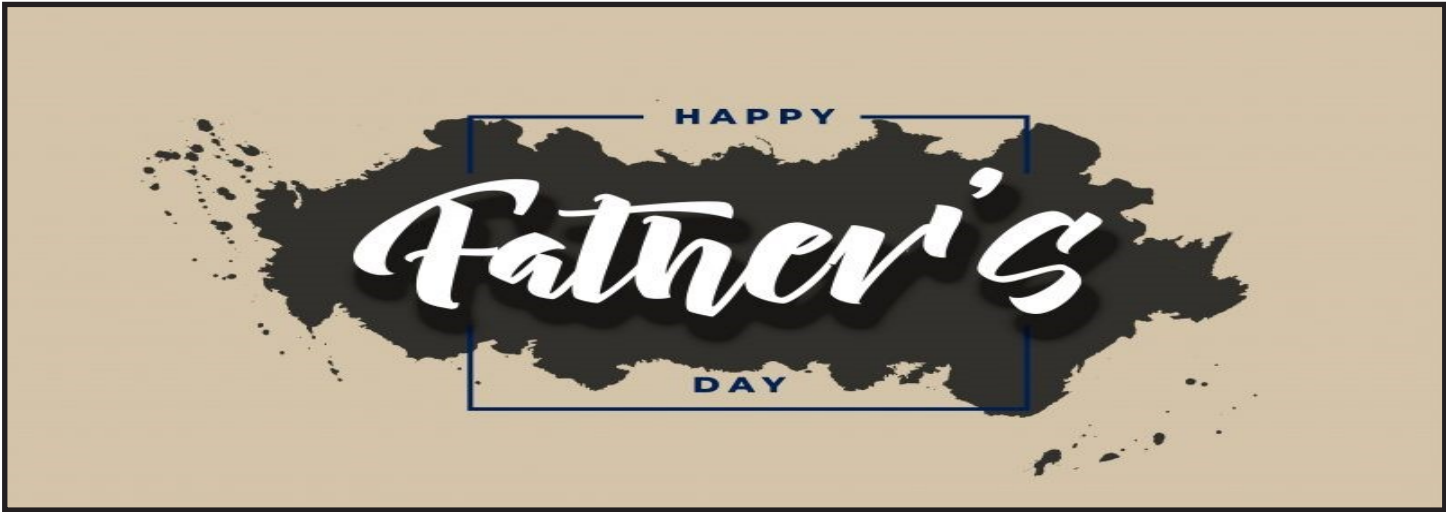
Safe Electricity provides these additional precautions to help ensure the safety of those working around irrigation equipment:

- If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.
- Avoid moving irrigation equipment on windy days when pipes could blow into nearby power lines. Keep pipes horizontal to the ground rather than vertical to minimize the risk of contact with power lines.
- Store unused irrigation pipes far away from power lines or electrical equipment.
- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines.
- Position the water jet streams so that there is no chance of them spraying onto power lines. If this happens, the entire system could become energized, creating a danger for anyone nearby.

If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from the pipe, and call your local electric utility for help.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).





## ***Notes From Load Management***

With irrigation season in full swing, so is Load Management. Load Management participants wanting to receive a text message, when load control is active, can call the office at 762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at [tims@prema.coop](mailto:tims@prema.coop). Participants can also check which groups are in active control by logging on to (<http://www.prema.coop>) and go to the irrigation tab and click on Load Control Status. Control status can also be checked by calling the office at 762-1311, after hour calls will be forwarded to PREMA's dispatch call center.



**Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties**

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