



Steve Lucas, CEO

SAVE A LIFE:

Avoid Distractions While Driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this one time.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous, and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, it is a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects, and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one in every 10 fatal crashes in the United States involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of

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In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Scenic Rivers, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens, who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS

Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

- 1** Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
- 2** Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
- 3** Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
- 4** This tip still holds true: Never walk alone at night.
- 5** Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock, or burn you.
- 6** Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
- 7** Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.

 **Safe
Electricity.org**





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR – THE RETURN

So many great events, trips, celebrations, and more are coming back into our lives. Youth Tour is one that too few members know about and even fewer take advantage of. Member students earn a chance to go on the Youth Tour by being elected to the State Youth Board at Youth Leadership Congress. Maddie Cooley said, “Kids should apply to Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) for multiple reasons. It provides an opportunity for teenagers to expand their leadership and communication skills as well as gain knowledge about electric cooperatives.”

What is Youth Tour?

Youth Tour is a chance for young adult members of electric cooperatives, from across the country, to travel to Washington, D.C., in June to meet with congressional members. This year, nine young adults from Wisconsin, including Maddie Cooley and Jude Klär from SREC, were selected to attend and represent Wisconsin among the hundreds of other students.

While in D.C., attendees toured many landmarks, historic sites, and museums, some of which included: Manassas



Maddie Cooley and Jude Klär at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

National Battlefield, the Pentagon Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, Mt. Vernon, the National Mall, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, several Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, and the Iwo Jima Memorial. While at Arlington National Museum, our students

were honored to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a powerful experience for all in attendance.

We walked many miles and saw some incredible sites while learning about electric cooperatives both in Wisconsin and around the country. Our last day was spent at Capitol Hill, meeting with representatives from five state legislators' offices. Wisconsin's young adults were prepared with questions to ask about issues that are affecting our state right now. It was a great learning experience for all.

One highlight was the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Presented by “The Commandant's Own,” the Marine Corps Drum and Bugles Corps were breathtaking in their bright red dress uniforms. The performance included the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

Interested in Learning More?

If you are interested in knowing more about Youth Tour, contact Judy Mims at SREC, 800-236-2141 ext 554. In addition to the Youth Tour, we also send young cooperative members to YLC at UW-Stout in July of each year. Details are available on our website, www.sre.coop, and on our Facebook page.



Youth Tour members at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial (above) and with Congressman Ron Kind (left).

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The winning photo for August in SREC's 2022 Member Photo Contest is "Storms Passing By" by Steve Limbach of Fennimore. Winning photos are featured in our 2022 Member Photo Calendar.

LAST CHANCE to enter SREC's 2022 Member Photo Contest

Send us your photos of "Bright and Shiny Faces" by **August 15, 2022!** Winning photos will be featured in our 2023 calendar and may also be used in future newsletters, on our social media pages, or in other cooperative publications.



For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable entry forms, visit our website, www.sre.coop. Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.



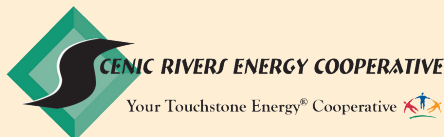
SREC's Lancaster office has a new address! We are now located at

**206 County Road K
Lancaster, WI 53813**



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



Steve Lucas, CEO
Judy Mims, Editor

206 County Road K
Lancaster, WI 53813
lanaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive
P.O. Box 127
Darlington, WI 53530
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131
Gays Mills, WI 54631
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • www.sre.coop

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