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PRESS RELEASE

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One Million Miles and Counting

Stearns Electric Association employees drive one million miles with no accidents

Melrose, Minn. – In June, Stearns Electric Association employees reached a major milestone: one million miles accident-free.

Over the last 22 months, Stearns Electric employees have driven over one million miles without an accident. The Cooperative's vehicle fleet consists of about 45 vehicles including bucket trucks, digger derricks, material trucks, pickup trucks and SUVs.

"At Stearns Electric, we are committed to both employee and public safety," Stearns Electric CEO, Robin Doege, said. "Reaching a million miles driven without an incident is certainly cause for celebration, especially with the winter road conditions in Minnesota!"

The Cooperative will celebrate the million miles milestone later this summer.

Stearns Electric's safety program encompasses many areas of the Cooperative. The employee-driven Safety Committee meets monthly to discuss safety priorities, review safety concerns and recommend improvements to the overall safety program.

Additionally, all employees engage in safety training and education on a regular basis. At least once a month, employees that work in the field participate in hands-on training to practice proper safety

more

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Stearns Electric Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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procedures. All employees review safety education material at their monthly department meetings.

Stearns Electric inspects building facilities, vehicles, substations and line crews regularly to ensure the Cooperative meets all national, state and local safety codes and that employees follow safe OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) work practices.

In 2019, Stearns Electric also launched a new “Find It, Fix It” program to compel employees at any level to speak up and report hazardous conditions or unsafe work practices. All “Find It, Fix It” submissions are reviewed by the internal Safety Committee.

Lastly, the “This is My Why” campaign was developed to focus heavily on improving the safety culture at Stearns Electric. Designed to demonstrate to employees that their safety is a priority and valued by their co-workers, Stearns Electric created a video series that captures employees and their families sharing their “why” behind working safely. You can view the videos on our Facebook page, facebook.com/StearnsElectricAssociation.

Stearns Electric’s safety program was recently recognized with the Leroy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award from the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust (MRET). The award is culture focused and recognized electric cooperatives for innovative programs and processes that promote workplace safety.

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Stearns Electric Association is a member-owned electric cooperative. Since 1937, Stearns Electric Association has provided electricity and related products and services to Central Minnesota. Today, Stearns Electric Association serves 26,000 members in six Central Minnesota counties including Stearns, Todd, Morrison, Kandiyohi, Pope and Douglas. For more information about Stearns Electric Association, please visit www.stearnselectric.org
