

Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

March 2022

Making energy work for YOU

Midwest Awards Rescue Tube Funding \$20,000 in Total Funding Arranged for Departments in 13 Counties

Grain bin entrapments can be deadly. Entrapment often happens when a person attempts to clear grain buildups or clogs inside a bin. Grain can collapse suddenly and in just 20 seconds a person can become completely trapped. In 2010, according to OSHA, 26 U.S. farmers died in grain entrapments.

When a man in Cheyenne County was trapped in a grain bin in July 2021, a rescue tube in neighboring Sherman County was brought in to free him in a matter of minutes.

Midwest Energy recently arranged a total of \$20,000 in donations to enable 13 regional fire and EMS departments to purchase rescue tubes and related accessories. The \$20,000 total is made up of \$10,000 from Midwest Energy's Community Fund and \$10,000 from Denver-based CoBank's "Sharing Success" program. CoBank is one of Midwest's lenders.

Those receiving grants include: Burdett Fire

Department;
Claflin Fire
Department;
Garden City Fire
Department;
Gove Fire
Department;
Hamilton County
Emergency
Management;
Lane County
Fire Department;
Phillipsburg Fire
Department;
Plainville Rural
Fire Department;
Rawlins County
Fire District #1;
Reno County
Fire District
#7; Sheridan

County Fire Department; St. Francis Volunteer Fire Department, and the Wilson Fire Department. Each organization will receive \$1,538 towards equipment purchase, which will cost roughly \$3,000.

Grain entrapment rescue tubes have multiple interlocking sections that can be slid around a person and pushed into the grain, shielding them from more grain pressing against the victim. The grain level inside the tube is then reduced in just a few minutes with a brushless battery-powered drill and auger, and the victim is removed. These devices make timely grain bin rescues a possibility. *Continued on back*



Learned firefighters assemble panels around a grain entrapment "victim" during rescue training. Photo courtesy of Mike Gilmore, Great Bend Tribune



Midwest Energy employees present the Phillipsburg Fire Department with a check for \$1,530 for grain entrapment rescue tubes and accessories. Twelve other rural fire and EMS departments received similar funding.



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Does Your Home Have Critical Medical Equipment?

Do you or a member of your household use essential medical equipment that runs on electricity or gas, such as oxygen generators, CPAP machines or ventilators? If so, you might qualify for designation as a Midwest Energy "Health Alert" customer.

If you have special medical needs, visit your local Midwest Energy office, or give us a call and ask if you qualify as a "Health Alert" customer.

After completing a short form, if you meet the requirements your meter and account are tagged, alerting our employees that you have special medical needs.

The critical customer designation is especially helpful to us during planned outages but does not change priority of service restoration during an unplanned outage, such as after storms.

Call us at 1-800-222-3121 to learn more about Health Alert.



Oxygen generators and CPAP machines are widely-used devices. Please let Midwest Energy know if someone uses one in your home so we can flag your account with a health alert.

Juniors: Apply Now for 1 of 20 Scholarships



In December 2021, with the future of travel uncertain into summer 2022, a

decision was made to cancel the 2022 Electric Co-ops Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

In place of the traditional trip to Washington, D.C., Midwest

Energy is offering twenty \$1,000 scholarships to students, four for each of Midwest Energy's five Board of Director Districts. The \$1,000 scholarship will be paid directly to the student.

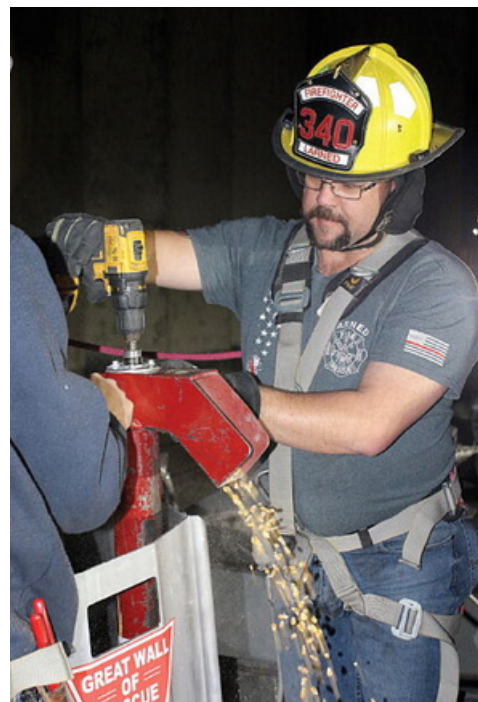
Applicants must be juniors in high school, and their parents or

guardians must receive electric and/or natural gas service from Midwest Energy. Applications are due by April 8, 2022. Selected applicants will be notified in late April. Children of Midwest Energy employees are not eligible to apply.

Grain Rescue Tube Grants Awarded

"When people become entrapped in grain, minutes count," said Steve Hirsch, an Oberlin-based attorney who also serves as Training Officer for Sheridan County Fire Department and Chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council. "These grants allow rural departments in 13 counties access to this vital equipment."

(Right) Once tube panels are assembled around the victim, the grain level inside the tube is reduced using a brushless, cordless drill and auger. Photo courtesy of Mike Gilmore, Great Bend Tribune



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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