



Fire Mitigation
a Priority



SMPA Annual
Report —
On Video!



Sharing Success
is Back Again

SEPTEMBER 2021

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

FALL ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

- Check outdoor electrical cords for damage.
- Keep fallen leaves away from outdoor outlets.
- Make sure that tree debris is kept away from the air conditioner condenser.

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(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Fire Mitigation a Top Priority for San Miguel Power

When it comes to our mission, there's no element more important than the safety and protection of our members, employees and everyone who lives in areas we serve. This, combined with the U.S. Drought Monitor's designation of "moderate" to "severe" drought intensity in the majority of our service territory, has compelled us to make fire mitigation a top priority.

What does SMPA do to lower the risk of wildfires near power lines and equipment?

■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:

One of the most critical fire hazards is vegetation that has grown too close to power lines. SMPA regularly contracts work crews to maintain our rights-of-way, ensuring a safe distance from tall trees, including dead "Beetle Kill" trees that are at increased risk of falling into nearby lines.

Tree felling is an inherently hazardous activity. SMPA and its contractors go to great lengths to lower risks for contracted workers. Timing and weather conditions are major considerations. Pressures surrounding this work can be intense, but we never let these controllable factors hamper workers' ability to operate safely.

■ SYSTEM UPGRADES:

New technologies make it possible for utilities to defend against the threat of wildfires better than in the past. SMPA has evaluated these devices, as well as areas of our territory most in need of protection. Devices like "trip-savers" and "non-expulsion fuses" are being tested and installed at critical points to assist in maximizing protection.

■ MODIFIED OPERATIONS:

When fire restrictions are announced in areas containing our electric infrastructure, we employ modified procedures to reduce the chance of an electrical fire in that part of our territory. These modified procedures may cause power outages to last longer, since they require crews to be on site when power is restored. But we feel the inconvenience is worth it to prevent wildfires that could cause destruction, injury or even death.

When our Board of Directors called out "Fire Mitigation" as one of the most specific phrases in our current Strategic Objectives, it was no accident. We thank our members for enduring inconveniences as we work to keep our territory safe.



Above Highway 550, a timber loader and a logging processor turn felled trees into lumber.

Photo: Alex Shelley



Troublesome Fire, Near Granby, Colorado 2020

SMPA's Annual Outreach Videos: Efficient and Enduring

One of the unsung casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic was traditional gatherings like the old-fashioned co-op annual meeting. To combat the spread of the virus, SMPA cancelled the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings. This forced us to think creatively on how we could communicate the messages that would have been delivered face-to-face if COVID-19 wasn't "a thing."

The Outreach Video is Born:

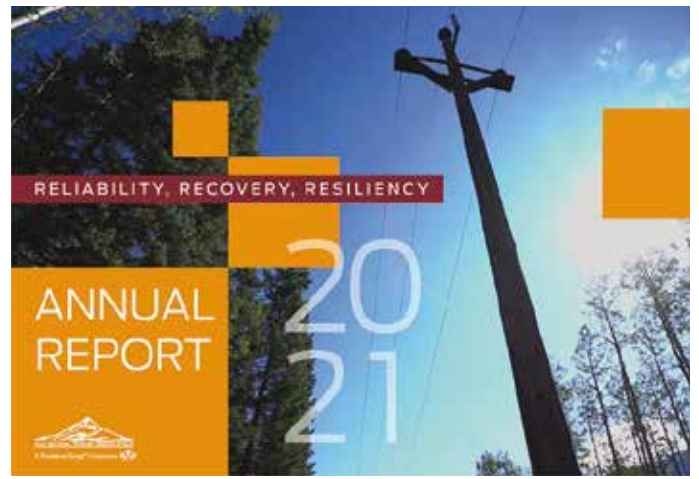
Online marketers predict that, by 2022, 82% of all consumer internet traffic will come from online videos. Moreover, research indicates that viewers retain up to 95% of a message when they watch it through video.

Given this data, we thought it would be a good time to put our Annual Meeting messages into a video format. Last year's video, entitled "The New Reality" received nearly 4000 hits and generated about 20 hours of view time on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

Refinement and Expansion:

This year, we split the six-minute format into eight separate videos of about a minute each. Topics include our multiple reliability projects, our experience helping neighboring co-op, Mountain Parks Electric recover after the devastating "Troublesome Fire" and the future of our electric power supply. Thanks to the longevity of video, you can check out both campaigns by searching "SMPA" or "San Miguel Power" on YouTube. As always, you can send questions to energywise@smpa.com.

Watch the Videos on SMPA's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCqByNd--KLwNI2SEWINJCmg



2021 SHARING SUCCESS
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

To improve the financial stability of local businesses, expand entrepreneurial opportunities and bring revenue to our towns and counties, SMPA awards grants to selected applicants.

Qualifying projects should:

- Stimulate job creation
- Promote economic growth
- Create/improve local commerce

www.smpa.com » Community Programs
 » Sharing Success Grants

COBANK

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REMEMBER...
SAFE HUNTING PRACTICES

HUNTERS,
 SMPA RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) CORRIDORS CAN BE A TEMPTING SPOT TO FIND WILD GAME, BUT SHOOTING NEAR ELECTRICAL LINES AND EQUIPMENT IS DANGEROUS. PLEASE USE GOOD JUDGEMENT.

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SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
TENANT GET A MEGA MOVE IN

Hint: A major way to prevent wildfires near power lines.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER EnergyWise
 and be entered into a PO Box 1150
 drawing for a fun prize to: Ridgway, CO 81432

Have you changed your phone # or email?
 Let us know at 1-877-864-7311