

NORA News



August 2024

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Richard Tafoya: NORA's Line Superintendent



Known for their hard work, selfless efforts, and dedication to safety, the heart and soul of any electric cooperative lies within its line crew.

The job of a lineman carries extreme risk. Their ultimate goal is to keep the power on regardless of the weather conditions. This requires the maintenance and repair of overhead distribution and transmission lines, installing and maintaining transformers and other equipment, trimming trees growing near transmission lines, and determining what action to take when calls come in for outages and other situations. One of their most difficult duties is responding to outages at night and in inclement weather.

The man in charge of all of this at NORA Electric Cooperative is Line Superintendent Richard Tafoya. Born and raised in Socorro, New Mexico, Richard is a graduate of Socorro High School. He began his career at Socorro Electric, a fellow NMREC cooperative, where he worked for twenty years before being hired by NORA in July 2018.

Richard started at NORA as a working foreman, and then in 2021, when longtime Director of Operations John Blea retired, he was promoted to that role becoming the direct supervisor of the line crew, overseeing operations, maintenance and construction. In addition to that, Richard is also responsible for staffing, purchasing materials for the warehouse, and safety coordinator.

One of the tasks he enjoys the most in his job is troubleshooting calls and outages and the ability to assist the crew in restoring power to the affected service area. However, the demands of the job such as working long hours on nights, weekends, on holidays and during family occasions can be the most challenging and difficult.

In his free time, Richard enjoys spending quality time with his wife of 27 years, Deana, and their three adult children. He also likes fishing in the local streams and lakes including the Chama and Brazos Rivers and Hopewell Lake. He is also active with the Chama Volunteer Fire Department, and he is a 4-H leader as well.



Line Superintendent
Richard Tafoya

Contact NORA:

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Chama, NM 87520
Mailing Address:
PO Box 217
Chama, NM 87520
Email: billing@noraelectric.org
Follow us on Facebook



Phone: 575-756-2181 - After hours Option 1
When reporting an outage, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Meter Number
- Service Address
- Telephone Number
- How long your power has been off



If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty, or if you are in a low income status and are continuing to have difficulty paying your utility bills, please contact the NORA office for options on setting up payment arrangements. You can also request financial assistance through LiHEAP by calling 800-283-4465.

Spring/Summer Office Hours: Open 7:00am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

Steps to Take This Summer to Save Energy

Seal and Insulate. You want to keep hot air out and cool air in during summer and vice versa in winter, so take some time to inspect your home for air leaks and poor attic insulation. For the most thorough assessment, consider scheduling a professional energy audit in which technicians use infrared heat mapping to pinpoint your home's thermal weak spots.

Consider a Window Upgrade. Window replacement can be costly, but you will see a return on your investment over time in energy efficiency and comfort. For single-pane or aged and drafty windows, energy savings could really be significant. Make a financial plan for this investment if you're not ready to upgrade now.

Smart Thermostats. The latest thermostats can be controlled from anywhere with a smartphone, making it easy to control the temperature when you're away from home. Many smart thermostats can even learn your heating and cooling habits and anticipate your home comfort needs to save you money.

Get a Furnace Tune Up. Schedule this once a year, ideally in late summer or early fall. An HVAC technician will clean the system, perform preventative maintenance, and take other steps to optimize energy efficiency and prevent breakdowns. If you have an air conditioner, have the system winterized in preparation for colder months ahead.



Attend NORA's 73rd Annual Meeting September 30th at the Down Home Lodge
 11:00am Registration
 12:00pm Lunch
 1:00pm Meeting Begins



Our linemen are on call 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week. Please call 575-756-2181 to report power outages.



Apply for the 24th Annual Chama Valley Open

NORA is now accepting registration forms for the 24th Annual Chama Valley Open Golf Tournament at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club on August 24th. Registration fee for a team of four is \$420.00 or \$105.00 per player. Application deadline is Monday, August 5, 2024, by the end of the business day.

NORA is also looking for tournament sponsors to help bear operational & promotional expenses. For \$150.00, an individual poster will be created for your business which will be placed on display at the tee box to be viewed by all players, coordinators, and spectators.

For complete details on how you can enter your team in the 24th Annual Chama Valley Open Golf Tournament or on how to become a sponsor, please contact the Chama office at 575-756-2181, or email Victoria Gonzales at vgonzales@noraelectric.org or Anthony Mercure at amercure@noraelectric.org.



All proceeds are used to fund scholarships for our local high school seniors.



Billing Schedule August 2024

Bill Due Date	21-Aug
Usage From	30-Jun
Usage To	31-Jul
SEDC Pickup @11:59pm	1-Aug
Bill Sent	1-Aug
Late Notice Sent	22-Aug
Contact/Follow Up	4-Sep
Disconnects/Cut Off	11-Sep



Think you have what it takes to join our line crew? Apply now for our Journeyman Lineman opening. We're seeking a skilled individual to join our team. Inquire at 575-756-2181 or stop by our office today to apply.

