Power line clearance essential for safety

To ensure safe and reliable electric service and prevent fire risk and costly repairs or replacements by the at-fault party, the public is reminded that it is imperative to adhere to IID’s power line clearance standards.

Power line clearance standards must be maintained within public roads, urban developments and farm operations, including private property.

IID maintains thousands of miles of overhead energy transmission and distribution lines. Any material, equipment, machinery, crops, haystacks or other similar items stored under, or in close proximity to, these power lines pose a severe hazard and potential liability.

In April, a haystack fire in Imperial County damaged one of IID’s transmission poles, which will need to be replaced at the expense of the land owner. Costs may run into the thousands of dollars.

In general, IID recommends that any material (equipment, machinery, crops, haystacks or other similar items) be placed where no power lines are present. If this option is not available, the material should be placed in a manner that power lines will not be endangered.

Details about IID’s regulations for power line clearance is contained in Regulation No. 23, Clearance Requirements for Power Line Corridors. This information has been shared with all water users via a number of forms: texts from Water Division staff, communications in the water bills, announcements at meetings of the Water Conservation Advisory Board, the Imperial County Farm Bureau and at public workshops in June and September 2019.


See Line Clearance, back page

District remains open for business

While IID remains open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic, access will be restricted at Water Division and at the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation offices.

While many of IID’s office staff may be working from home to ensure their safety and the safety of the public, customers can contact Water Department employees through email or phone. Customers may also request a follow-up call, a webinar or other meeting alternative.

Drop boxes are being installed at the Northend, Holtville and Southend divisions, and are already available at the On-Farm office in Imperial. The OFECP team is also beginning to utilize DocuSign for online electronic signatures for the on-farm conservation contracts.

IID encourages customers to use these alternatives to comply with public health guidelines and supports the practice of social distancing recommendations.

Please be aware that IID’s Water Division offices are open between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Should you have any difficulty reaching your zanjero, please contact your Water Division office for assistance.
Water Dept. introduces DocuSign for OFECP participants

To increase efficiency and protect the health of the public and district employees, IID’s On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Office has been using DocuSign for the last few months.

Use of DocuSign allows contracts to be sent to and from parties by email and legally signed digitally by tenants, landowners, staff, etc., making the process quicker and safer.

DocuSign is being used by the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Office for all new contracts.

There is no account needed to use DocuSign and no costs are involved. Recipients simply follow the emailed link to access and electronically sign their contracts, which are then automatically returned to be processed by the On-Farm office.

If you have questions about using DocuSign for On-Farm contracts, please send an email to onfarm@iid.com.

If you need to meet with IID staff, please contact the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Office and accommodations will be made.

Line Clearance ————

(Continued from front page)

Haystack Dangers

In particular, haystacks can pose an imminent danger as they can catch fire. While there can be many causes (lightning, sparks from working machinery, embers from controlled brushfires, etc.), the leading cause in many rural areas, particularly in hot climates, is self-ignition through spontaneous combustion.

Why?

Green or damp hay encourages bacteria and fungi to grow and decompose. A series of complex biological and chemical reactions can then cause heat build-up. This can produce flammable gasses which may ignite. In fact, just one damp bale is enough to ignite an entire haystack.

How?

If you have hay stacks that encroach on IID’s power line right-of-way and IID’s electrical equipment is damaged by a fire from those haystacks, the owner could be held liable for damages.

Please protect your assets and yourself from liability. Store hay outside of IID power-line corridors and prevent haystack fires by following these safety precautions:

- Ensure hay is fully cured before bailing.
- Keep haystacks to a limited size.
- Store hay bales away from vehicles, machinery and equipment.
- Store hay away from flood-ways to minimize moisture content.

Please keep hay and equipment safe and away from power lines.

- Protect haystacks from rain.
- Monitor hay with a correctly calibrated moisture meter. Moisture content should be no more than 20 percent.