

White River Valley Electric Cooperative News Release

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White River Valley Electric Cooperative prepares for the future

Branson, Mo. – WRVEC's Assistant Manager of Safety and Training, Claude Koenig, has completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control. The Loss Control Internship is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly four million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Avoiding workplace accidents helps minimizes down time and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Claude Koenig is one of only a few electric professionals in the country that will receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30 hour OSHA course, and a detailed final course project.

Loss Control participants go through four, six-day sessions that are designed to challenge and educate participants in new and innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry. Koenig has been with WRVEC for 23 years.

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<u>White River Valley Electric Cooperative</u> is a <u>Touchstone Energy Cooperative</u> dedicated to ensuring our members receive safe and reliable service in their homes and businesses across five southwest Missouri counties including Ozark, Taney, Stone, Christian and Douglas.