



Columbia REA

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: From Columbia Rural Electric Association

**Title: Columbia REA's Safety Instructor Prepares for the Future
Jeff Myers becomes a Certified Loss Control Professional**

Dayton, Washington, Columbia REA's Safety Trainer/Coordinator Jeff Myers 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 and 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, 4.2 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 avoids down time and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Jeff Myers is one of only a few electric utility 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, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certification by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry.

Jeff Myers has been with Columbia REA for 9 years. Jeff has been in the electric utility industry for more than 30 years. He has worked as a journeyman lineman, line foreman and the last 3 years as the Safety Instructor/Coordinator.

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