



Preparing for the Growing Threat of Wildfire:

Across the U.S., the threat of wildfire has increased significantly in recent years. For electric utilities, the danger is all too real, as dry vegetation can easily ignite from power line contact—especially during periods of high winds, which can accelerate the spread of wildfire. In some cases, electric utilities may be liable for financial responsibilities in the aftermath of a fire linked to utility equipment. Utilities even may be held responsible for the fire, its suppression costs and any natural resource damages when they are not at fault under strict federal liability statutes, even when wildfires result from events beyond their control—such as wind-driven debris igniting fires.

Advocating for Better Processes

Utilities, including electric cooperatives, are advocating for reforms to reduce regulatory barriers that hinder wildfire prevention efforts. One of the biggest challenges is the complex and slow federal permitting process for grid-hardening projects and vegetation

management. In some instances, it can take years to gain approval to remove a single hazardous tree, to replace a wooden pole with a metal pole or to underground a line. Even when approved, regulations may require utilities to leave cut trees on the ground, increasing fuel for future fires.

The Fix Our Forests Act, a bipartisan bill currently moving through Congress, aims to streamline these processes. It would expand vegetation clearance zones from 10 feet to 150 feet around power lines and shield utilities from unnecessary lawsuits. Utilities are also establishing forest operating agreements with the U.S. Forest Service to reduce strict liability.

Planning and Mitigation Strategies

As wildfire threats increase, many electric co-ops are creating detailed mitigation plans, which include strategic vegetation management, infrastructure and equipment upgrades and sometimes public safety power shutoffs.

Co-ops are also utilizing new and developing technologies to safeguard their local grid. Some technologies help reduce the risk of fire and minimize structural damage, such as fire-resistant utility pole covers and non-expulsion fuses, which eliminate the expulsion of gases and molten metal when tripped. Additionally, some co-ops are utilizing tools that aid in detecting wildfires or weather conditions that could lead to them. Technologies such as satellite and drone imaging, advanced power line sensors and strategically placed pole cameras are just a few examples of how utilities can keep a closer eye on the local grid and spot potential risks.

In addition to advocacy efforts and technologies to better protect against wildfires, co-ops understand that community collaboration is key. By working with government agencies, local businesses and community groups, co-ops will be better prepared for wildfire prevention and response.

LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Enrollment

Opens
October 1st

The LIHEAP program is designed to help low-income families and individuals with a portion of their heating bills from October - April. It does not matter if you rent or own your home. Eligibility is based on your income and resources.

Action for Eastern Montana
Attn: LIHEAP
2030 N Merrill Ave
Glendive, MT 59330

Phone 800-227-0703 or
406-377-3564
Website www.aemt.org

More information, eligibility requirements and applications can be found on Action for Eastern Montana's website or you can call or stop by NorVal Electric's office.

ANNUAL MEETING

Glasgow Civic Center

Date:
Tuesday - October 21, 2025

Time:
Registration starts at 4:30 pm
Dinner starts at 5:30 with the
business meeting to follow

ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A \$30 BILL CREDIT ON
THEIR PRIMARY ACCOUNT UPON REGISTERING

For More Information:
<https://norval.coop/news-events>

HELP US CELEBRATE NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Stop in to the Glasgow office on the dates listed for
a chance to WIN a **\$30 BILL CREDIT!**

02

OCT, 2025

S'MORE TREATS FOR YOU

ALL DAY S'MORE GOODIE BAGS, HOT
CHOCOLATE, CIDER & COOKIES

09

OCT, 2025

BOWLFUL OF THANKS

11:00 - 2:00 SOUP BAR

16

OCT, 2025

POPPIN' WITH APPRECIATION

ALL DAY POPCORN, MOVIE TICKET &
CANDY

21

OCT, 2025

ANNUAL MEETING

4:30 PM GLASGOW CIVIC CENTER

30

OCT, 2025

BOO CREW APPRECIATION

ALL DAY HALLOWEEN TREATS

ALL MONTH LONG: GUESS HOW MANY CANDIES IN THE JAR

**OCTOBER
ALL MONTH**

HELP US, HELP OTHERS FOOD DRIVE

BRING YOUR UNEXPIRED &
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO
THE GLASGOW OFFICE
MON - THURS 7:00 - 5:30

CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP

Office Address

54091 US Hwy 2 West
PO Box 951
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-9351



**NorVal Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00 am - 5:30 pm



www.norval.coop



norval@norval.coop



facebook.com/norvalelectric



norval.smarthub.coop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Kevin Nelson 724-3202

District 2: Sam Gundermann 724-3405

District 3: Rick Molvig 367-5328

District 4: Chris Christensen 648-7303

District 5: Rick Stahl 762-7162

District 6: Brian Miller 525-3797

District 7: Rocky Kittleson 263-1510

Gretchen Boardman ~ General Manager

Nick Dulaney ~ Line Superintendent

Marie Donaldson ~ Office Manager