



NorVal News

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

NorVal Electric is able to locate utility-owned power lines up to the meter base only. Please call a local electrician if you are in need of having your secondary line located. If you hit an underground secondary line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. Should you have any questions about the locate request you called in, please call 811 directly and they will be able to provide the information you are requesting. If you have any concerns based on the answers you received, please call the office at 406-228-9351.

Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking, but mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.


The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one in every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At NorVal, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait, and waiting just might save a life. 

Lineman vs. Electrician

If you have ever had a problem with your electricity, you have probably found yourself wondering who you should call. Depending on the issue, there are two main people for the job- linemen and electricians. A good way to determine who will be needed is, anything beyond the meter pole or in your home, you will need an electrician. A lineman can only work on the lines outside of your home and down to the meter.

If your power goes out, you call NorVal to dispatch a lineman to your residence. A lineman also works on building lines and other “electrical” work that gets power to your home. However, we often get calls for home electrical repairs. This is a job for a certified electrician.

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. When you are hiring an electrician, keep the following in mind:

1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.

Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.

2. Make sure the electrician is insured.

Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.

3. Read all of the reviews.

Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews- not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor. Consider asking your neighbors for recommendations. We also have a list of trusted electricians in the office, just ask!

4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.

Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).

5. Talk timeline.

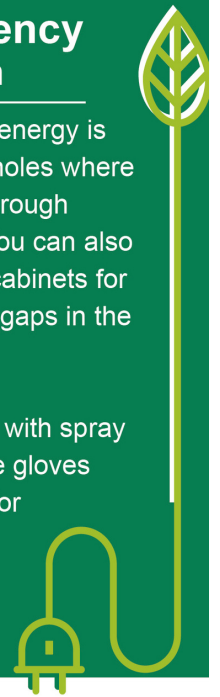
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician. 🗓️

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



**We will be closed Monday, September 5
in observance of Labor Day!**

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney,
Line Superintendent

July storms kept us busy with outages across our system. We are happy to see the moisture, but it can really cause a lot of issues when it comes to keeping the power on for our members. You are the eyes on the system; we really appreciate everyone that called in to report outages and kept us updated as our crews were working to restore the power.

The crew has been working on converting a single-phase line to a three-phase on the Oswego water project, as well as putting in new services north of Glasgow. We have been spraying weeds at our substations to keep them under control to keep up our efficiency when faced with an outage.

Altec was here to do our yearly truck inspections per insurance and OSHA regulations, and we are working on fixing and doing the necessary maintenance that needs to be done to keep our fleet running efficiently.

In honor of celebrating 75 years of service in Northeastern Montana, we will be giving all primary members that attend the Annual Meeting a \$30 bill credit!

Check Facebook for more details!



We want to wish all of the students and teachers a great school year!