

NorVal News

December 2023

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords.

We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.

When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.

There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen.

As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

NorVal Electric wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit norval.coop for additional safety tips.

VETERANS DAY




The office will be closed November 9
 in observance of Veteran's Day!

Happy THANKSGIVING

Monday.....8-5
 Tuesday.....8-5
 Wednesday.....8-5
 Thursday.....Closed
 Friday.....Closed
 Thanksgiving week ONLY!



Win a free trip to
Washington, D.C.
 June 14-21, 2024

Essays Due 11/28

Open to current Sophomores and Juniors whom are dependents of members of NorVal Electric Co-op.
 Please visit norval.coop/youthtour for more information

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Due Date: January 30, 2024

All dependents of members graduating high school in 2024 are eligible to apply for all three of the scholarships available!

APPLY NOW

- NorVal Electric
- MECA
- Basin Electric

Call for more information
406-228-9351

For applications visit
norval.coop



Reminder

NorVal Electric would like to remind our members this winter to please turn on your heat meter if you have one. This will help you reduce the cost of your energy bill during the coldest days of the year.

THANK YOU SO MUCH

WE WANTED TO THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE CO-OP MONTH EVENTS WE HAD IN THE OFFICE AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. IT WAS A GREAT MONTH CELEBRATING WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE WHAT WE DO EVERYDAY, POSSIBLE!

Welcome to NorVal, Logan!



We are happy to introduce our newest lineman apprentice, Logan Sims. Logan is a Malta native; he graduated from Malta High School, and went on to Montana Tech in Butte on a football scholarship. After completing college, he moved back home and worked on the family farm and ranch while working for Scout Energy. After a few years at Scout Energy, Logan was looking for a career change and settled on linework. After completing line school in Idaho, he moved back home to find a career with his new-found interest and has now joined the NorVal Electric Cooperative family!

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney, Line Superintendent

In mid-October, we had a couple planned outages for system upgrades. We shut down our New Deal substation, which provides power to the town of Fort Peck and surrounding areas to put up bird guards. This will help the town with experiencing power blinks in the late fall time when the birds are the most active on the power lines. We appreciate your patience when this project took place; hopefully, we will see an improvement in the next year. Construction season has officially come to a close. All of our underground equipment is put away for the year.

Now, the crew will be working on retirements, tree trimming and patrolling our lines. All of these things are necessary to make sure our system is running as well as it should be.

Our operations team, Joe and Christina, are working on the plan for the 2024 construction season. They will be building staking sheets so the correct permits and right of ways can be obtained before the Spring time.

WE ARE hiring

Journeyman Lineman

We are looking for a journeyman lineman to be stationed in Opheim, MT.

APPLY NOW!

For the application, please visit our website at norval.coop

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