

NorVal News

November 2022

54091 US Hwy 2 W, Glasgow
P.O. Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230
[facebook.com/norvalelectric](https://www.facebook.com/norvalelectric)
406-228-9351
www.norval.coop

NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

- District 1 Kevin Nelson 724-3202
District 2 Sam Gundermann 724-3405
District 3 Rick Molvig **Vice Pres** 367-5328
District 4 Chris Christensen 364-2367
District 5
District 6 Ron Reddig **President** 392-5257
District 7 Rocky Kittleson **S/T** 367-5366

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

Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication.

Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager.

Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software.

It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

4. Recognize and report phishing attacks.

Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.



2023
YOUTH TOUR
JUNE 17-23, 2023
Washington, D.C.

TO APPLY:
VISIT NORVAL.COOP FOR
APPLICATION, RULES, AND
RESOURCE GUIDE.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2, 2022

The poster features a collage of images including the U.S. Capitol building, a person walking, and a statue, all set against a blue and white background with decorative elements.



Manager's Update

By Craig Herbert

General Manager

I hope everyone is shifting their focus on the fall weather and preparing for what is coming.

As far NorVal is concerned, we will not be installing any new underground services because we have no underground transformers. We have had a semi-load of transformers on order since last year, but still have not received them. Another bit of information you need to know is that all available materials go to storm jobs first. This would put Hurricane Ian's damage to be taken care of first. As everyone has seen, the cost of living has been steadily rising, this is the same for NorVal. We were informed all our association dues are going to increase to cover operating costs.

Our wholesale power supplier is going through a formal rate increase. This increase will go into effect January 1, 2023. The reason for the increase is the cost of materials and the drought that is hitting this area. When in drought, the supplier has to go to the open market to purchase power for us. At times, the cost of this power is very expensive.

During our last board meeting, the Board and I worked together to see how to best cover the rate increase from our supplier. As a result, they approved a \$2 per kW increase to be implemented on December 1, 2022. They also approved a \$0.005 increase for irrigation implemented also on December 1, 2022. With the increase being placed on the demand, members have the opportunity to control how much their bill will increase. No matter what, it will go up, but it all depends on how much power is used. To the right there are tips to keep your increase at a minimum. Other things that will help with keeping the cost down are, spacing out your chores to one thing every hour, try not to turn multiple large appliances on at once (ex: running the dishwasher, washing machine and vacuum at the same time).

We understand the frustration and other concerns that will arise with this increase, we hope this will keep us going for as long as the last increase we implemented in 2016. We will continue to monitor all the processes that affect NorVal and will keep you informed.

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney,

Line Superintendent

It was so nice to see everyone back together at the Annual Meeting last month!

The crews are working on finishing up irrigation disconnects early this month. With winter right around the corner, we are anxious to finish up the last of our construction season. Before the ground freezes, we will be finishing up the underground construction projects that are still in progress from earlier this year. Along with the underground work, we are still finishing up what we can for all of the overhead reconductoring that we can before it gets too cold and windy out. As we wind down for the year, we will be picking right back up on service retirements and tree trimming. We are taking advantage of all of the nice weather that we can.

I just wanted to thank everyone this year for their patience and cooperation with the supply issues we have been facing. Unfortunately, this is just the beginning. We will begin our planning for next year's construction season very soon, but the lead times are getting to be further and further away. As always, we will do our best to get all new construction put in, but get on the list early for a better chance at getting power to your project next year.

SAVE ENERGY AT HOME WINTER EDITION

KEEP THE AIR CIRCULATING

Normally, ceiling fans rotate clockwise, pushing air down and creating a slight wind chill effect. However, most ceiling fans have a reverse switch that will enable them to turn clockwise to push the warm air that collects down.



UNPLUG UNUSED ELECTRONICS

Appliances and electronics draw energy even when they are set to "off" position. These energy "vampires" draw power when you don't expect it.



USE LED LIGHT BULBS

LED bulbs are one of the most energy efficient light sources available. They use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer.



PLACE RUGS ON HARD FLOORS

Rugs are an extra layer of insulation that separates your feet from the chilly hard floors. Rugs can also work as wall hangings to add even more insulation to a room.



COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS

Install tight-fitting, insulating curtains on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing with heavy-duty plastic sheets that seal tightly to the frame.

