

NorVal

News

SEPTEMBER 2024



54091 US HWY 2
PO BOX 951
GLASGOW, MT 59230
406-228-9351
NORVAL.COOP

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FOOD DRIVE

Bring in your unopened and unexpired food products to the Annual Meeting to receive a \$10 bill credit

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Modern Farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact NorVal Electric Co-op Inc.

Smart Harvest Safety Tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- **Exercise caution near power lines.** Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- **Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- **Avoid using metal poles inside bins.** Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- **Hire qualified electricians.** Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

NICK'S NOTES

BY: NICK DULANEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT

As we enter the "BER" months, our crews will be working hard to complete our construction projects for the season. The focus of our crew will then shift from construction to tree trimming, clearing right-of-ways and pole inspections. In September, a few of our crew members and I will be attending the MECA Operations Conference in Great Falls. This conference will provide us with the opportunity to meet vendors and explore new products that will help us continue to provide reliable and affordable power to our members.

We also have a new payment phone number for members, which is now active. The new number is 1-855-940-3870. This information has been updated on our website and posted on Facebook.

As we say goodbye to the warm weather, let's prepare for the winter season ahead.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

CELEBRATE CO-OP MONTH IN OCTOBER!

OCT.

3

COOKIE DAY
GRAB SOME
COOKIES, CIDER
& COFFEE
ALL DAY



OCT.

10

SOUP BAR:
COME IN FOR A
HOT BOWL OF
SOUP!!
11-2 PM



OCT.

17

COME IN FOR
SOME MEAT,
CHEESE &
CRACKERS!
11-2 PM



OCT.

22

ANNUAL MEETING:
LUSTRE HIGH SCHOOL
• REGISTRATION 4:30
• DINNER 5:30
• MEETING TO
FOLLOW DINNER



OCT.

31

TRICK-OR-TREAT
BRING THE KIDS
IN
FOR GOODIES!
ALL DAY!!



COME IN EVERY
WEEK FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN A
\$30 BILL CREDIT



LIHEAP BEGINS OCTOBER 1

Are you struggling to make ends meet? Have you Heard of "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)?"

It may help pay a portion of your heating bills this winter.

For registration and inquires visit WWW.AEMT.ORG or call 1-800-227-0703 or 406-377-3564 or by mail at: PO BOX 1309, Glendive, MT 59330



ALL MONTH LONG:
COME IN OR COMMENT
ON FACEBOOK TO
GUESS HOW MANY
CANDIES ARE IN THE JAR
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
A \$50 BILL CREDIT!!!!
One guess per member!



CHECK
FACEBOOK
TO SEE
WHO WINS
EVERY
WEEK!!!

