

Beware of Scammers!

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card. Prior to disconnect date NorVal will mail 3 regular billing statements, a friendly reminder, and a disconnect notice. We will also attempt to reach you by phone a few days before we disconnect power, and identify ourselves, however if you have any doubts about the caller, contact us at 406-228-9351.

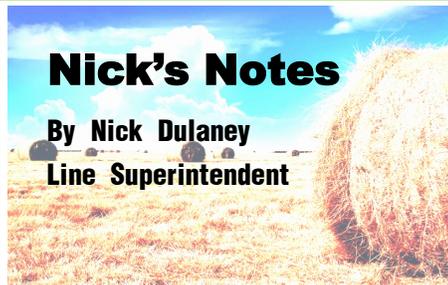
If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of NorVal Electric that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let

the individual into your home. Our crews wear shirts with the NorVal logo, and also drive trucks with this same logo. We ensure that we are clearly identified.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang-up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang-up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

NorVal Electric Cooperative wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us, or visit our website www.norval.coop. 



Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent

With calving starting we hope that the season goes quickly and smoothly for your operation!

The crews are nearing completion of the three phase

reconductoring job south of Nashua. This step is the first of three on this south River Road project we've got slated for this year. The guys are also working to reconductor around three miles of single phase line on Dead Lamb Road, northwest of Nashua. This work when completed will increase capacity of the lines, as well as improve reliability.

Another job we've been working on is to replace the high side fuse holders and transmission arrestors in the Peerless Substation. Regular maintenance and equipment replacement is essential to ensuring that the system reliability remains high. Last month the crews replaced the high side fuse holders in the Kronebusch Substation.

The crews also have completed safety training the past few months on fork lift training and inspected the electric safety equipment that they use, including hot sticks, chains, slings and grounds. The annual testing of this equipment ensures that they

are safe for our linemen to use. If the devices fail the tests, we dispose of them and purchase new ones.

With a few hints of warmer weather arriving, we are compiling the list of projects for the year. Part of this planning is preparing to order inventory necessary to complete these jobs. April is when we order the okonite wire for the construction season.

In addition to a few single phase line extensions on the list already, we also have a three phase irrigation line scheduled as time permits. If you have a project in mind for the year, please give me a call and we will go over your plans and let you know the options available! The material for special jobs may take a few weeks to be delivered, so be sure to let us know well in advance so that we can have everything ready to go! 



Left: Gavin Krauth loads a transformer onto the forklift while MECA Safety Instructor Ron Miduri watches in the background. On the right Brock See takes a turn operating the forklift.



Recipe Corner



Irish Beef Stew

1 1/4 lbs. well marbled chuck beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2 in chunks

3 tsp. salt

1/4 c. olive oil

6 large garlic cloves, minced

4 c beef stock or broth

2 c water

1 c Guinness extra stout

1 c. hearty red wine

2 tbsp. tomato paste

1 tbsp. sugar

1 tbsp. dried thyme

1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

2 bay leaves

2 tbsp. butter

3 lbs. russet potatoes, cut into 1/2 in pieces

1 large onion, chopped

2 c carrots, cut

1/2 tsp black pepper

2 tbsp. parsley, chopped

Brown the beef. Sprinkle about a teaspoon of salt over the beef. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Pat dry the beef with paper towels and work in batches (do not crowd the pan or the meat will steam and not brown). Brown on each side. Add garlic to the pot with beef and sauté, then add stock, water, Guinness, wine, tomato paste, sugar, thyme, Worcestershire, bay leaves and simmer. Stir to combine. Bring to a simmer, reduce heat to the lowest setting, then cover and cook for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. While the pot of meat and stock is simmering, melt butter in another pot over medium heat and sauté the onions and carrots about 15 minutes. Set aside until the stew has simmered for an hour, then add sauté to the pot. Add the onions, carrots and potatoes, pepper, the rest of the salt and simmer until vegetables are tender (about 40 minutes). Discard the bay leaves. Spoon off any excess fat. Serve in bowls and sprinkle with parsley. Enjoy! 



Medical Alert List

NorVal Electric maintains a list of members who utilize medical equipment. If you or someone in your home uses equipment such as oxygen, a nebulizer, heart monitors or a feeding machine please let us know so that we may add you to our list! Those who are on the list are first to be contacted in the event of a planned power interruption. We do our best to ensure that any power outage remains as short as possible, but many factors like the weather, are beyond our control. We appreciate the patience of all of our members during these circumstances. 

Fort Peck Summer Theatre Celebrates 50 Years

The Fort Peck Summer Theatre, built in 1934 opened its doors as a movie house during the Dam Days during the construction of the Fort Peck Dam project. In the 1960's many buildings were slated for demolition and removal, and quickly a group was formed to protect this historic jewel. Today, the theatre houses live productions throughout the summer months. NorVal Electric, in conjunction with Big Flat Electric in Malta, and McCone Electric in Circle proudly support the Fort Peck Summer Theatre through our sponsorship and assist the Fine Arts Council in ensuring that the historic building and the entertainment provided will continue for the next 50 years! Please join us for Co-op Night at the Theatre, July 6th during the production of Mamma Mia! 



Payroll and Benefits Administrator, Marie Donaldson (left) presents the 2019 NorVal portion of the sponsorship to Jennifer Fewer, Executive Director of the Fort Peck Fine Arts Council.

Upcoming events in our area:

Various Blood Drives: visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information and to make your appointment today!

Wolf Point Chapter Walleyes Unlimited: March 21, 2019 at Wolf Point Elks Club. 5:00 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner.

Schmeckfest: March 22, 2019 at Lustre Christian High School. Serving from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bake sale, live & silent auctions with entertainment to follow. Call: 406-392-5735 or visit www.lustrechristian.org for more information. 

Connect With Us

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov

